SUNDAY
December 17, 2023

BENGALURU
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CHALLENGES APLENTY

Inside India's textile industry

Employees and employers share their plight as sector stares at uncertainty

BUSINESS » PAGE 14

CT scans raise risk of blood cancers: study

SCIENCE » PAGE 11

Kamal Nath removed as M.P. Congress chief

NEWS » PAGE 8

Deepti spins India to big win in one-off Test

SPORT » PAGE 15

NEARBY

HC notice to govt. on helmet for children

BENGALURU
The High Court has ordered the issue of notice to the government on a petition to implement the new rules, which mandate a motorcycle rider to ensure a child between nine months and four years, has to wear a helmet. » Page 2

COVID-19: State on high alert

BENGALURU
Following rising COVID-19 cases in the neighbouring Kerala and a slight increase in Karnataka, the State is on a high alert. State Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao took stock of the situation on Saturday. » Page 4

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES J2 & 2
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

MPs' suspension, security breach not linked: Speaker

In a letter to members, he says the punitive action was for creating ruckus in House and not for raising the issue; high-powered panel to review Parliament security and devise preventive steps

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Informing members of the Lok Sabha that a "high-powered committee" will review various aspects of security in the Parliament complex to formulate an action plan to prevent a repeat of the December 13 incident, Speaker Om Birla on Saturday asserted that there was no link between the suspension of Opposition MPs and the security breach.

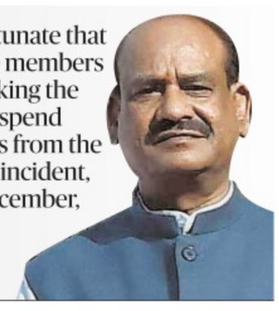
In a two-page letter to all members, he said the MPs were suspended not for raising the issue, but for "carrying placards and creating ruckus".

Mr. Birla said the report of the high-level inquiry committee, set up by the Union Home Ministry under CRPF Director-General Anish Dayal Singh, into the breach will "soon" be shared with the House.

"In addition, I have also constituted a high-powered committee which will review various aspects of security in the Parliament complex and formulate a concrete action plan to ensure that such incidents do not recur," Mr. Birla said.

In his letter, Mr. Birla said: "It is indeed unfortunate that some honourable members and political parties are linking the decision of the House to suspend some honourable members from the service of the House to the incident, which occurred on 13th December, 2023. This is unwarranted."

> It is indeed unfortunate that some honourable members and political parties are linking the decision of the House to suspend some honourable members from the service of the House to the incident, which occurred on 13th December, 2023. This is unwarranted
> **OM BIRLA**
> Lok Sabha Speaker



'Keep decorum'

The Speaker said that at the time of inauguration of the new Parliament building, members had resolved not to bring placards inside the House and "create ruckus in the Well of the House".

"...we were unanimous that we would establish highest standards of parliamentary decorum and dignity. It was in this context that the House was compelled to take strict action of suspending honourable Members," Mr. Birla said.

The Speaker said that security of the Parliament House complex comes under the jurisdiction of the supreme law-making body and it is "the Parliament's responsibility to formulate detailed action plan on security measures..."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 7

Security breach: one more held

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Police on Saturday arrested Mahesh Kumawat, an aide of Lalit Jha — the alleged "mastermind" in the security breach case. » PAGE 7

'School of happiness' to take root in Assam

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

A first-of-its-kind school for imparting lessons on humanity and societal happiness will take root in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) of Assam at the dawn of 2024.

The foundation of the International School of Peace and Happiness is scheduled to be laid in the first week of January at Bijni in Chirang district of western Assam, one of five in the BTR.

The project would be initiated after a year of planning by the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), which administers the BTR.

"Conflicts of the kind Manipur has been experiencing are heart-wrenching for the region known for its natural splendour and hospitality. The areas now under BTR went through a similar phase over 50 years of movement (for Statehood)," BTC's chief executive member, Pramod Boro said on Saturday.

Trained community counsellors interacting with villagers troubled by various conflicts.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The BTR areas have had a history of extremism resulting in ethnic conflicts, especially between the Bodos, the largest plains tribe in the northeast, and migrant Muslims, and between the Bodos and Adivasis. Hundreds were killed and more than 500,000 people were displaced in major communal clashes in 1993, 2008, and 2012.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 7

Stripping case: More arrests; HC places curbs on visits

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Even as the High Court of Karnataka on Saturday directed that no individual, group, association or political party should visit the victim of the Belagavi stripping incident at the hospital without the prior written permission of the medical officer, a delegation of the BJP MPs landed in the border city on a "fact-finding" mission, leading to another round of political slugfest between the ruling and Opposition on the case.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka police arrested three more people in connection with the incident, taking the total arrests to 11, and a team from the National Commission for Women visited the hospital where the victim is undergoing treatment.

DETAILS ON » PAGE 5

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

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Warming up: A farmer tries to dry the chilli crop under the sun at Gannavaram near the Andhra-Telangana boundary in the aftermath of the cyclone. G. N. RAO

Starting fresh: Workers planting tobacco saplings in fields damaged by the cyclone in Madhiralapadu village. KOMMURI SRINIVAS

Cleaning up: A farmhand working on a tobacco field damaged by the cyclone near Chekoorapadu village. KOMMURI SRINIVAS

After the storm: A farmer inspecting the tobacco crop damaged by the cyclone at Chekoorapadu village. KOMMURI SRINIVAS

Gone with the wind

Cyclone Michaung caused torrential rain along the east coast, causing extensive damage to standing crops and vital infrastructure

Michaung, a severe cyclonic storm, originated as a low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal and became a deep depression on December 2. It made landfall near Bapatla in Andhra Pradesh on December 5, leaving a trail of losses.

The storm peaked with sustained winds of 110 kmph causing torrential rain in southeastern Andhra Pradesh, which wreaked havoc in at least six coastal districts, causing extensive damage to standing crops and disrupting transport and communication networks.

Standing crops on a large swathe of land were inundated, while electricity supply was disrupted in many areas. Roads were waterlogged in several places, bringing transport to a halt.

The State government took up restoration measures on a war footing, and normalcy was restored. The officials have begun work to estimate the loss. This will be completed by December 19.

The lists would be displayed from December 19 to 22 at the Rythu Bharosa Kendras for social audit so that farmers would be able to lodge complaints.

The complaints would be received from December 23 to 25 and after scrutiny, the District Collectors would send the final compensation lists to the Government.

A five-member Central team, led by National Institute of Disaster Management Executive Director Rajendra Ratnoo, visited the State for field-level inspection to estimate the losses due to the cyclone.

The State government has sought ₹3,711 crore in aid to repair the damage caused by Cyclone Michaung. AP State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) Managing Director B.R. Ambedkar, in an interim report submitted to the Inter-Ministerial Central Team, stated that the Roads and Buildings and Agriculture departments had suffered losses of ₹2,641 crore and ₹703 crore, respectively.

(Text by G.V.R. Subba Rao)

No grain: A farmer walks through his field where the cyclone flattened his ready-to-harvest paddy crop. G. N. RAO

Classifieds

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Seeking High Salary match for Christian girl 33, 153cm, MNC 7024375195

COSMOPOLITAN

GROOM WANTED
CHRISTIAN UNMARRIED
Girl 40 years with B.P.T & M.Sc (UK) Looking Medical or Engineering, Hotel management. Groom age 40 to 42. Expecting Abroad country alliance coming for leave. Full Family Settlement Expenses ours.
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Inter-caste grandparents, 28; 5'1", Masters in software Eng, Russell Group of Universities UK. British citizen, high achieving, wrkg in MNC, London & well settled. Looking for professionally qualified Indian groom preferably settled in UK or willing to settle in UK. Caste/religion no bar. Mobile: 94839 50380

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LOOKING FOR a suitable issueless Christian bridegroom for a adi dravidar –divorced girl having no kids age 30, ht 160 cm . Ct.93604 26069.

WANTED A suitable groom for Doctor girl 32 yrs working in PSU/ Govt living with 6 yrs son Ph 8810389784

DOCTOR

GROOM WANTED CNB, 34yrs, MBBS, MD, Well Educated Family,Need only Doctors.Contact: 9710093999/ 8939691888

NAIDU MS OBG F.MAS 32 ,156 cm seeks suitable well settled groom CNB please send BHP to WA 9159150101

HINDU NADAR, 27/167, MBBS, MS, OG, One lakh per month, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 9047192999

30, CASTE No Bar – MBBS, MD, MS, OG, MDS, BDS, DCH, BHMS, Siddha. Divorce. Own Hospital. Ct: 7824023030

MUDALIYAR / Pillai– 27. MBBS, DCH, Doing Fair Seeks Doctors BE, IT Govt Settled Family. Ct : 9363570731

DOCTOR GIRL 30/156cm, MD, General Medicine, Madurai. Caste no bar 9447493034, 9497168001

GROOM WANTED
Reputed Reddy Family in Chennai Invites Alliance for Daughter 33/165, Doctor MBBS, MS, Looking for Tall Educated Groom from affluent family CNB.
Call: 89256 40111

DOCTOR Girl, M.Ch., Beautiful, 34/5.3, Hindu, Mudaliyar, Tamil, Chennai seeks DM/M.Ch./MD/MS Groom. Caste no bar. Send BHP. sindujp@gmail.com. CT.9443702517

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GOVT / QUASI GOVT

HINDU DEVENDRA Kula Vellalar girl 28yrs, 5.4ft, 65 Kg, B.Tech (IT), CIT, Coimbatore. Preparing for TNPSC. Father–General Manager, IOCL, Madurai.. Mother–Home maker, Brother–B.E (Mech) CIT, Coimbatore. Seeks Professionally qualified, clean habits, family values–Doctors, Govt employee, Caste no bar. Contact: 7550307487/ 6379936273.

THE HINDU
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HINDU ONLY daughter 26 years, innocent divorcee no child very affluent. Only IAS, IPS, IFS, IRS, IFOS OR well established Business person. First marriage/ innocent divorcee/ widower without any encumbrance below the age of 32 years. Only Hindu can apply with photos/ details only on email id mohanvishnu2792@gmail.com

NAIDU DOCTOR MS Gen Surg 30, 164cm seeks IAS /IPS/ Business / Doctor CNB contact 9047020797

HINDU /GAVARA Naidu girl /25y / 167cm, Corporate Lawyer, Doctor Parents with Hospital,Chennai seeks Elite Telugu/Tamil groom from Civil,Judicial services OR Professionals with well–established business firm. Send BHP to Email: tbms169@gmail.com

MALAYALAM

KERALITE CHRISTIAN parents invite proposals for the Re-marriage of their daughter aged 34 years, fair, slim, 165 cm, Assistant Professor in AIIMS from doctors, Civil Services or well settled professionals. Mob:9447144391, 9995465029

GROOM WANTED
HINDU EZHAVA GIRL
Age-29/164 cm
Thiruvonam
MCom/Business Family
Contact : **9495095011**

NRI

TAMIL PILLAI 32/163cm B.Tech, M.S working in Ireland. Seeks suitable groom (CNB) 91 94435 64798

Unmarrried 53/166 cm US Citizen Hindu with pleasing outlook on life Healthy well Educated and Employed. Please contact vasanthkumarp@yahoo.com

TAMIL

RC NADAR, 34/174cm, B.COM, MBA, 30 Lacs p/A, Divorcee. Seeks Suitable Groom. Cont: 9380791999/ 9047192999

CSI TAMIL, God Fearing, Homely, M.Tech, 26 yrs / 158 cm, MNC. Parents seek alliance from God Fearing, Humble, Well Educated and Employed Groom. Mobile 9444002036, 9600022500.

RC–CHRISTIAN FLY, 26yrs Doctor MBBS Chennai Preparing PG 6 LPA. Seeks PQM Groom. Ct: 9840150090

NADAR CHRISTIAN Groom very well to do and well educated aged 31 to 35 for a girl, fair beautiful well educated (P.G) Very rich. Parents Contact: 9790787919.

SAIVA PILLAI 32Yrs 165Cms Tiruvathirai B.Tech MBA MNC Seeks Qlfd Well Employed & Never Married Grooms 33–35Yrs Earning Rs 20Lacs PA & Above Ct: 9643003640 / 044–48041602

HINDU NADAR Bride, 47yrs, 162 cms, M.C.A., M.Phil., Self Employed, Never Married, Good Looking, seeks Educated and well settled Chennai based Groom. Caste No Bar. Ct. 9840117920.

VANNIYA KULA Kshatriyar, 24/5.2, BArch, Star – Karthigai, Rishaba Rasi, Working in Chennai. Seeks Suitable & Qualified Groom. Ph: 9840926156

VANNIYAR B.TECH MBA, 28, Bharani, Mesham, employed seeks well educated working or business family groom. Same community or from Hindu community. Caste No bar. Ct: 9840447199

HINDU SC AD 30yrs Rohini Rishabam B.E MBA HR, MNC, Chennai, Seeks Well Educated, Employed Groom below 34 yrs . Ph; 80561 05645, 94450 03943

RICH NAIDU, 28yrs, BE, MEM (US), Elite Business Family. Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9962791888

RICH MUDALIYAR, 24yrs, B.Tech, Ms (US), Elite Business Family.Seeks Suitable Groom: 9710093999/ 8939691888

SOZHIA VELLALAR Fair Slim Girl 25/ 167 BE Employed in Big Four,13 LPA Seeks Professional Groom from Tamil Family. Ct: 9025400750/ 9787771136

DHANUSU RASI 29/164 SC Bride Dr MD., Fair& Slim TN, seeks suitable MD/MS/PG Doctor Groom Ct: 9443647866

CHETTIAR (CNB): 25/ V. Fair, BE, MS (UK), Data Scientist, London (UK), Elite Family, Seeks groom Any Abroad / Business – 8939012419

TAMIL

MUDALIAR (CNB): 25/Fair, B.E, MS (USA), Running own Industry, Chennai, Elite Family, Seeks groom Business / Doctor/ Eng – 8925019776

YADAVA HINDU, Thiruvadhirai 24/168 M.Tech, IIT(H) Working as Research Associate in Biotech Company. Looking For Suitable Alliance from Same Community. Contact:98414 49116

Hindu Nadar, 29yrs/160 cm, Moolam / Dhanush, B.Tech(CS) working CISCO, Banglore / Rs.19 Lakhs PA. seeks Groom with similar Educational & Professional Background Ct:91768 00819.

DOCTOR MD(PATHOLOGY), DCH,38 yrs, Hindu,BC, Divorcee without child, temporarily working in Government, seeks well settled, compatible & affectionate Groom. CNB. Ph: 9176289180

VELLALAR / Pillai Rohini 28 MBA (IIM) AGM MNC Chennai 26L PA Seeks Doctor Govt Officer Prof. Qlfd. Groom. CNB. 9994113213.

BE, MBA 31yr Employed Divorced Fair & Homely SC AD Hindu Elite Family Seeks Groom blw 36yr Elite Family. Cast No Bar 9444952477

HINDU, SC/AD, 37/163, Fair, B. Tech(CSE), SWP, Moolam–Dhanusu, Chennai, seeks Professionally Qualified, Never married groom, below 40 yrs, From India/Abroad. CNB Ct:8754566571

VK KSHATRIYA Hindu Practicing CA Girl DOB Sep 91, 156 seeks well Settled Educated Groom Chennai only CNB 9500100848/ 9840200907

HINDU NADAR 39/160 B.Tech, MS(USA) , Self Employed Divorcee. Expectations: Masters in Engneering/BE, MBA and Employed. 9444895863/ 9047192999

AGAMUDAYA MUDALIYAR 31/168 V.Fair Rich BDS. Doctor / Engineer / Business. Ct: 9486531194 / 8637481104

Looking for a suitable Hindu Groom (Caste No-bar, groom age: 37 to 43, with professional degree) settled at USA for my daughter 38Yrs old,studied MS (USA), Unmarried, Green card Holder, working & currently living in California.

Mail to lookingmatches@gmail.com

SC, 40 1st Marriage, Physiotherapist, own Clinic prefer groom in Coimbatore, Pollachi, Udumalpet, Erode region. Caste no bar.Whatsapp: 94891-76568.

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PILLAI / MUDALIAR 35 fair Hastham MCA Well settled Chennai Seeks 37–40 Prof Quaf Working Groom 8220757159

HINDU SAIVA Pillai Bride, 1987 Born, Magham, Veg, Beautiful, U.S. Educated, Senior Economist seeks Groom aged 36-39yrs, Smart, Veg, Highly Qualified, settled Professional preferably based in Mumbai. Ph: 9994022477

SC/AD 32yrs/M.Sc, B.Ed, M.Phil, P.hd/Asst.Professor. Seeks Bridegroom. Ct: 9600855627

DKV 32/164 fair B.Tech (NIT) MBA (IIT), MNC Chennai seeks bridegroom from educated family. Ct: 9940507235

MUDALIYAR 31YRS MBBS MS Elite Business Family,Seeks Doctors & Business Groom's only 9710093999/ 8939691888

SC ROHINI 34/155 MBBS MD Working in GH, 1 Lakh PM. Seeks Professionally Qualified Groom. CNB. 94431 85185, 90800 86604

THULUVA Vellala 36/160cm B.A, B.L (HONS)M.L seeks Employed,Educated Gd Looking Groom. Ct: 9710485384

NAIDU, 42/150, Uthirattathi, Ph.D, Professor, First marriage, Sub-sec no bar seeks suitable Groom.Ph: 7358166806

ODAYAR HINDU 28yrs fair beautiful, B.Sc Comp.Science Work@ WIPRO Bangalore. Well todo family, Seeks Educated & Well Settled Groom 7974689578

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TAMIL

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MUDHALIYAR BOY, Chennai, dob: 23.01.1982, height 168 cms, clean habits, Pooradam/Dhanusu, HR Manager 10 Lakhs, Legally Divorced. Brokers Excuse Ct: 9551069123

MUDALIAR 25/160, Beautiful, BE, SWE, Infosys, 600000.PA, Affluent Family, CNB. 9043991629, 7299576666

DR. MBBS MD, Hindu Nadar Age 29, Divorcee ,Viruchigam Visagam, seeking Dr, Govt Employed, Engr working abroad Also. Contact: 8939005008

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

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HINDU UNMARRIED groom, 40/ 5ft 7inch height, fair, self employed civil engineer post graduate from Hyderabad looking for educated bride. Phone No – 9985637279

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BRIDE WANTED Elite Nadar 26yrs MBBS pursuing MD well Educated Family, Only Doctors 9710093999/ 8939691888

HINDU VANNIYAR kula, 29/166 cms, Doctor, DNB, lives in Jayankondam Ariyalur district, Both parents Doctors and owns Hospital, looking for Doctor bride from same community. Contact: 9443834909, 9443576357

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

TAMIL

CSI NADAR, 31/ 177cm, BE, MBA, 60000p/m, Seeks Suitable Bride. Contact: 9380791999/ 9047192999.

RC CHRISTIAN, 41yrs/170, B.E Software Engineer, never married, working for mnc, Chennai, CT–9500188067

NANJIL VELLALAR Pillai, 44/169, M.Tech TCS, Chennai, 22.70L/pa, Anusham, seeks suitable bride. 9940286982

VELLALAR/ SUBSECTS 27 years B.com BL.14 Lacs MNC Chennai Minimum Graduate Veg/Non Veg Contact:7358200722

NAIDU 1994 born 186 cm BE MBA. Pilot with Indigo seeks fair educated Bride. Ct: 95000 57987, 74284 47958

AGAMUDAYAR (DEVAR/ Mudaliyar), 40, MBA, IT, Teetotaller, Divorcee, No Children's, without any expectations. Seeks Bride, Degree, Married/ UnMarried / Widow, without children's, age below 35.Ct: 94442 61735

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wanted elite groom
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URDU

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Urdu Muslim 31/165cm B.E, M.S, US working in Amazon- Polo Alto San Francisco now in Chennai, reputed Business Family seeks suitable Urdu Muslim Groom. Call/ W.A: 9884141181

DIVORCEE

SEEKING ISSUELESS bride for a Tamil – Hindu second divorcee age 58. Income 6 Lakh PA. No expectations. Caste No bar.Ct.88387 44120.

DIVORCEE, MUDALIAR, Boy, 46/178; Advocate seeks suitable girl. 9487709023; clc.karthik.sim@gmail.com

Male (40), Residing in (UK), Lead Engineer, Christian, LC.(Caste no bar). Contact: 9986559614, 9895414377

MALAYALAM

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Nair Boy seeking Alliance, 33y, BBA, Working @ Chennai Ph: 7305242240

NRI

HINDU, AFFLUENT, TAMIL, SC (CASTE No Bar), 31 /170, MS, SWE, Microsoft in USA, 200k, H1B, I140 appd seeks suitable Bride Pref work / studying in USA. 9445006500 / 9445442020

TAMIL

RC MALE 54/165. Post Graduate, Legally divorced, Business. Inviting proposals from qualified suitable alliance. Mob–88913 79459

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 35yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

RC, USA 45/175, Divorcee seeks suitable BC / FC, Christian or Hindu Bride, Ct: 9443455743

RC 1973 / 165 cm MA MBA Govt. Asst. Man. 1L pm Chennai divorce seeks any bride CNB ct: 8148842983

TAMIL

RC NADAR Boy 29/180 MS working @ USA. H1B, KK Dist Seeks Bride ME/ MS Working at India or USA: 7373627729

HINDU NADAR, 29yrs /178cm, BE MBA, 33 LPA in MNC, Chennai, Well Educated Affluent Family, Seeking Well Educated Employed Bride From a Similar Family Background. Ct: 9841054900

ELITE MUDALIYAR, 34yrs, MBBS, MS, Well Educated Family. Seeks Suitable Bride Cont: 9710093999/ 8939691888

TAMIL HINDU (BC). MBA . Age – 40. Unmarried. Fair. Pvt Job. no bad habits. I Full Willing to be a GOOD HOUSE GROOM, GOOD SON in a BRIDE HOME . I will take care of my Future Wife like my Mother. Suppose If it is a business family, I am ready to support & Honest it and take care of it..Divorce Widow Accepted. (Caste & Religion no bar). Pls Avoid brokers. Kannan : 91235 – 89257

✔ **PILLAI(KARUNEEGAR), DOB:24–01–92, BE, Veg, Job: MNC (Software) Chennai, Annual Income: 25 lakhs. Seeking a suitable bride from the same or any other community. Ph: 9841784047 Email: pingme.arul@gmail.com.**

HINDU NADAR 40/170 B.Tech MS Working Canada First Marriage Seeks Working Bride Caste No Bar 8148166505

SOZHIA VELLALAR, Fair Boy BE.MBA 27 Years 6'4" Employed, 58,000 PM Seeks Professional Bride from Sozhia vellalar / Pillai / Mudaliar Ct. 9840840596 / 9940026295

SEEKS BRIDE for Hindu Rajakula Agamudaiyar 30/180, Vrichigam/ Anusham boy, native Madurai, B.Tech works in MNC Bangalore, Ct: 9845519275.

BRIDE WANTED Rich Naidu, 31yrs, BE, MS(US),Working in US, Elite Business Family Ct:9710093999/ 8939691888

TAMIL

TELUGU CHETTIAR Unmarried 1983/5. 11 Btech, Mba Manager 14 lakhs/PA . Seeks suitable telugu/tamil alliance. Ct 9444559768/04479609970

36 /5.6, Kongu vellala Gounder, SW (engg) (BE, MS), working for reputed Company USA, seeking bride broad minded partner. caste no bar I believe in open communication. There is a minor, well managed health consideration that might require support on our path to parenthood. Happy to discuss over phone. ct: 8438688375

SENGUNTHAR, 38/ 165, Widower, NRI. 65 Lacs, B.E. 2 Kids live together. Caste, Education, Wealth No expectations. Looking for unmarried family oriented girl. 7904495268

AGE 35, Handsome, Affluent Groom wants Bride with 10Crore Asset. Marriage, Remarriage, Divorce 7401489892

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AGAMUDAYA MUDALIYAR, 41 Mirugasiridam, PhD, TN Govt Job. Rs 1.28 L P/ M. Divorced. No Brokers. 7904550883

SENAI THALAIVER (Chettiar) Avittam 44/165 MCA, Sr.SWE, Chennai 17Lpa. Seeks suitable bride. Brokers excuse. CasteNoBar.9486416625/8220648979

VAANIYAR CHETTY- 37/176 Visagam MS (Sweden) working in Sweden 60 L PA, (Swedish Citizen & OCI) Seeks BE/ MS/ MBA/ MCA/ CA/ PhD Prof. Bride CNB. Ct: 98404 29799

PARVATHARAJAKULAM 30YRS uthirattathi Meenam BComMBA Accenture Blr Income 80KPM seek Girl at25 UGPG Raguketu homely Good family. Ct:9442539898

BE from Bits Pilani, Height 6'1 Mudaliar born Nov 91 Sr Product Manager at Bangalore Salary 42 lacs seeks Bride Height from 5 4' same or Allied Castes BE, CA Doctor. Mobile - 7382620365.

HINDU NADAR, Age: 42, Divorcee, Star Cancer Poosam, Children: two boys Age. 9 and 10 (hostel) Second Marriage is required for Nadar ethnic brides, No caste barrier, no expectations. Avoid brokers Ct: 9840075677

BHARADWAJAM, UTHIRADAM, 44Yrs, 6', MBA, Entrepreneur, 36L P.A, Chennai. Seeks Educated – Employed / Unemployed / Unmarried / Divorcee Bride. Subsect No Bar. Ct: 98403 29322

TAMIL GRAMANI / Nadar 30 years, Employed shipping company in Singapore with good salary. Seek a suitable bride. Ct: 0413-2344534

AGE 37 Height 5.10 Punarpoosam. Pillai Mudaliyar MCA SW MNC Bangalore Salary 3L P.M Wanted degree holder Bride 9176245009 / 8143351235

THULUVA VELLALAR, Dec 1981, BE, Software Professional seeks a suitable match. 9442112385 / 7353847074 (w)

✔ **SAIVA PILLAI** / 29 / Karthigai / 166Cms / B.E Software Eng in MNC Chennai Seeks Bride Contact : 9498357132

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NADAR, 45,BSC Maths, Business unmarried without any expectations seeks Bride in same caste. Ct 9884136764

ELITE MUDALIYAR, 27yrs, BE, Elite Business Family in Chennai. Seeks Suitable Bride 9710093999/ 8939691888

SC (AD),28YRS, B.Arch,Elite business ,well Educated Family.Seeks Suitable Bride Ct:9710093999/ 8939691888

MUDALIAR 28/172 Handsome, BE,SWE, Infosys, 1350000.PA, Affluent Family, CNB. 9043991629, 7299576666

HINDU SAIVAPILLAI Thanusu Uthiradam 30,174cm BE MBA SoftwareMNC 10L/PA Bangalore Seeks Same Caste Bangalore workingGraduate Bride 9943570200

HINDU NADAR 26/170, BE, MS, USA Rs.9,00,000/– per month, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct:KA Ramannadar 9380791999

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IYER VADAMAL Srivatsam Thiruvadirai 28yrs BE,MS, Global Org. H1B Visa,CA USA $150K,Seeks bride studying/employed in USA preferred 9444914461

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VADAKALAI IYENGAR Vadulam Uthradam 35/165 BE PGDM MNC Chennai Seeks Suitable Brahmin Bride Ct: 9884755154

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Saiva Pillai 28/180 Research Scientist Bangalore seeks Saiva Pillai/ Mudaliar Educated Employed Bride. Contact: 8220445782

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ELITE GAVARA NAIDU FMLY in Chennai Business,02/08/1999,5.9,Meenam,Uthiradam,Veryfair, MBA with Good Networth. Seeks Bride from Elite Family only (Sub sect ok) Ct:0–94440 71701

TELUGU

KAMBALATHU NAICKER, 31, Mse, Risk Analyst, UK 5yrs Visa Natwest Bank, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, 4000 Pounds Per Month Seeks Not Working Bride Any Naidu. Individual Brokers Welcome. 8525004277 / 6369477159.

TIRUPUR Naidu Boy 28/180 MBA (IT) Affluent, own Business, Bride from Naidu. 9994581873, 9047081873.

Brahmin Boy IT Engineer 33/170 seeks Alliance (Working or non - Working) from Brahmin Family. Contact :+91-9655730185

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INBRIEF

BRS party worker arrested for posting fake audio clip

The cybercrime police arrested 33-year-old IT cell employee of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) party for allegedly carrying out a malicious campaign against K.J. George, Karnataka's Energy Minister, on social media during the Telangana Assembly elections.

The accused Ravikanth Sharma, a resident of Karim Nagar, was picked up by the police following a complaint that a fake audio clip about the power crisis and Gruha Jyothi scheme through artificial intelligence was being shared on social media to campaign against the Congress government.

CCB arrests man from Delhi in foreign currency racket

CCB officials on Saturday arrested a conman from Delhi for trying to cheat people by offering fake UAE currency at throwaway prices.

The accused Sheikh Imran and his wife Ruksana, who is on the run, used to approach businessmen and people planning to travel abroad and offer to sell UAE dirhams for ₹12 against its actual price of ₹22 . The accused even handed over genuine UAE currency to their target asking them to get it checked and claimed they had huge amount of currency which is difficult for them to convert. Based on a tip off, the CCB team tracked the accused for a week and arrested Imran from a house he was staying in.

The Archives at NCBS's call for Obaid Siddiqi Chair

The Archives at the National Centre for Biological Sciences has announced a call for the Obaid Siddiqi Chair in the History and Culture of Science 2024-25. The announcement said, "The Obaid Siddiqi Chair will be awarded to a distinguished scholar with a substantial body of work that deepens our understanding of the history and culture of science." It added that the applicant should be known for transcending disciplinary boundaries and engaging with the public. The last date to apply is January 3, and the award will be confirmed by April. To know more log into https://archives.ncbs.res.in/os.

Vijay Diwas

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the Vijay Diwas event at the National Military Memorial, Indira Gandhi Musical Fountain Park, in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Couple, associates held for honeytrap

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) officials on Saturday arrested a couple and two of their associates for honeytrapping a businessman for ransom.

The prime accused Kaleem, befriended the victim last month and introduced him to his wife claiming she was a widow and needed help. After a couple of meetings, the woman, as per the plan, lured the victim into meeting at a hotel in RR Nagar.

While the woman and the businessman were in the hotel room, the other accused barged in, created a ruckus and robbed ₹4,000 in cash from the victim and demanded ₹6 lakh to let him go. The accused threatened to inform his family members and also file a complaint against him with the police.

Scared, the victim called his relatives to arrange the money and bring it to the hotel. Suspecting something fishy, the relatives filed a complaint. Based on the complaint, the CCB officials raided the hotel and arrested the accused.

The accused are Kaleem, his wife Saba, Obaid Rakheem and Atiqh. The police have taken them into custody and are further investigating to ascertain their criminal background.

Helmet for children on bikes: High Court issues notice to State govt.

It is compulsory to ensure that children between ages of nine months and four years wear crash helmets and safety harness as per the new rules

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has ordered the issue of notice to the State government on a PIL petition seeking directions to the authorities to implement the new rules, which mandate a motorcycle rider to ensure that a child between the ages of nine months and four years, carried as a pillion rider, has to wear a crash helmet and safety harness compulsorily.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Krishna S. Dixit passed the order on the petition filed by Archana Bhat K., an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Psychology in a private medical college in Shivamogga.

What rules say

It has been pointed out in the petition, filed through advocate Nitin Ramesh, that safety measures for children were introduced through Section 138(7) of Central Motor Vehicle (Second Amendment) Rules, 2022, which was notified on February 15, 2022, under Section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act. As per the notification, the new rules would come into force one year after its notification.

Besides safety equipment, the new rules also prescribe that the speed of the motorcycle, with the child up to age four years being carried as a pillion, should not be more than 40 kmph.

Besides safety equipment, the new rules also prescribe that the speed of the motorcycle, with a child up to four years of age as a pillion rider, should not be more than 40 kmph. FILE PHOTO

However, the petitioner has pointed out that no action has been taken by the State government to implement the new rule even though it is more than 10 months since it became operative, with effect from mid-February, 2023.

Mortality, morbidity

Non-implementation of new rules resulted in the continuation of tragic instances of children suffering from mortality or irreversible morbidity due to road accidents caused by the negligence of drivers carrying children sans safety equipment, the petition said. The petitioner has pointed out that as per the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' data of 2021, as many as 46,593 persons died due to non-wearing of helmets, of which 32,877 (70.6%) were riders and 13,716 (29.4%) were pillion riders. As many as 93,763 persons suffered injuries due to non-wearing of helmets, as per the ministry's data, the petition said.

Helmets, harnesses

The petitioner has also sought a directive to the authorities for urgent measures to ensure adequate availability of child safety helmets and child safety harnesses while pointing out that these safety equipment are not available in proportion to child population travelling on motorcycles in Karnataka.

Mistaken for thief, alcoholic man beaten to death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 55-year-old alcoholic man was beaten to death by a group of people who mistook him for a trouble maker after he knocked on the door of a house to beg, in Swagath Layout in Karekallahalli, Gauribidanur, in the wee hours of Saturday.

The deceased has been identified as Manjunath, a resident of RT Nagar, who was a plumber. According to the police, his wife and children had left him seven months ago due to his chronic alcoholism. Since then, Manjunath was living on the footpaths and begging.

Early on Saturday, he ventured into Swagath Layout and knocked on the door of the accused to beg. Mistaking him as a thief, the house owner Ambarish alerted his neighbours Sunil and Kailash, who rushed out and thrashed Manjunath.

Hearing the commotion, the other neighbours woke up and alerted the police . The night beat police rushed to the spot and detained Manjunath and took him to the hospital where the doctor declared him 'brought dead'.

Inquiries revealed that Manjunath had not had food for many days and was anemic. "He knocked on the door to beg for food or money, but was mistaken by the people as thief, which led to his murder," a senior police officer said .

"The accused have taken the law into their hands and thrashed Manjunath with a wooden roller and plastic pipes severely, resulting in his death. The trio have been arrested on murder charges for further investigation," the officer added.

Four students arrested for dancing in moving car

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Chikkajala traffic police have arrested a group of four students for allegedly creating nuisance on the international airport road by dancing in a moving car in the wee hours of Friday.

The accused, identified as Salman Faris, 23, who was driving the car, and his friends, Nasim Abbas, 21, Salmanul Faris, 20, and Mohammed Nusaif, 21, from Kerala, were studying in different colleges in the city. They set out for a joy ride to the airport and created a ruckus on the airport road on Thursday night, hanging out of the sunroof of a speeding car and also from its windows while the car was over speeding. One of the road users recorded their act and posted in on the social media account of the city police demanding action.

Tracked down

Based on the complaint, the Chikkajala traffic police tracked down the accused through the car number plate, which was registered in Delhi.

The accused confessed that they had ventured out for a joy ride to the airport.

The police have subjected them to medical tests to ascertain whether they were under the influence of alcohol.

The accused have been arrested under section 184 (dangerous driving) of IMV Act, section 279 (public way in a manner so rash or negligent as to endanger human life) and section 283 (Danger or obstruction in public way of line) of IPC for further investigation.

Protest held to mourn death of Arjuna

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Members of six NGOs and environment and wildlife enthusiasts staged a protest at Freedom Park on Saturday alleging that the "callousness and unresponsiveness" of a few senior forest officers has been one of the reasons for the high number of human and wildlife deaths in Karnataka. This followed the death of Arjuna, the tamed tusker who was a star attraction in several Mysuru Dasara processions. Arjuna died during an elephant capture operation in the Yeslur Range of forest on December 4.

People staging a protest seeking justice for Dasara elephant Arjuna, who was killed in fight with a wild tusker, at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

"Arjuna's death is just the culmination of many blunders. A retired elephant was brought out of retirement to capture a wild elephant. The recent death of captive and wild elephants, tigers, and humans can be attributed to the following top causes: unscientific eco-tourism in critical wildlife habitat leading to human animal conflicts; unscientific wildlife capture decisions by the Karnataka Forest Department; deputation of inexperienced veterinarians for the capture operations; unscientific linear infrastructure projects blocking wildlife movement and foraging patterns," said a petition to the Chief Minister.

"As many 30 farmers and estate workers have been killed by elephants between April and November 2023. Overall, there have been 43 deaths in these eight months, including four due to tiger attacks in Bandipur and Nagarhole. There is an urgent need to seek accountability from senior forest officers," said a release from Joseph Hoover, Trustee, United Conservation Movement (UCM).

Vinod Jacob from Namma Bengaluru Foundation, said, "I think the wildlife and human conflict is something Bengaluru is seeing very often. We all talk about sustainability, climate change, and green development, but at the end of the day, we cannot do an environmental assessment before touching any project. That is a major reason for human-wildlife conflict across Karnataka. The BDA or BBMP need to align their projects with the forest and environment departments to prevent human and wildlife conflict."

Push for upgrading silk industry

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rachna Shah, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, on Saturday visited the Silkworm Seed Production Centre under National Silkworm Seed Organisation (NSSO) and the Central Silk Technological Research Institute (CSTRI) in the Central Silk Board secretariat campus. She showed keen interest in the processes of seed production explained by S. Manthira Moorthy, director, NSSO, at the centre.

According to a release from CSB, Ms. Shah visited the Indigenous Automatic Reeling Machine and other machineries for reeling and processing developed by CSTRI, the technological wing of CSB.

Cybercrook creates fake email ID of KSEAB chairperson to issue official instruction

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A conman posing as the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) chairperson sent instructions to the staff via email to complete a task given to them last Saturday.

The incident came to light a week later, when the officials brought it the notice of the chairperson, who ordered a probe before approaching the police.

Based on the complaint by Gopalakrishna H.N., a senior official from the board, the North Division Cyber Crime police have taken up a case against the unknown person charging him under Section 66 C (identity theft) of the IT Act, 2000.

According to the police, the accused had created the mail under the name officiall-mail1627@gmail.com and mailed it to the staff in the official list. The email contained generic instructions and nothing specific in nature. "Looks like it was attempt to test the waters or play a prank," a senior police officer said.

The police have written to the email provider seeking the source of the email to track down the accused.

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Every grain counts: A farmer unloads wet paddy crop to dry under the sun in the aftermath of the cyclone at Ramakrishanapuram in Telangana. G. N. RAO

Rounding up: Agriculture workers drying paddy damaged by the cyclone. K. V. S. GIRI

Taking stock: A farmer in distress flips over paddy crop damaged by the cyclone near Machilipatnam. K. V. S. GIRI

Holding on: A farmer tries to salvage whatever little is left of his banana crop in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. G.N. RAO

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Three-year-old girl run over by car outside apartment

The girl was playing outside the complex in Bellandur police station limits

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a tragic incident, a three-year-old girl succumbed to internal bleeding after being run over by a car while she was playing outside the apartment in Bellandur police station limits on December 10. A complaint was filed on Friday.

Initially, the parents, Jog Jutar and Anitha from Nepal, working as domestic help, found the girl lying outside the gate unattended. They suspected she might have got injured due to a fall.

However, during treatment, the doctors at NIMHANS found fracture injuries on her shoulder and legs and said she died due to internal injuries. During the post mortem, they suspected something fishy, following which the parents filed a complaint with the Bellandur police seeking a detailed probe.

The police analysed the CCTV camera footage and found a car from the same apartment running over the girl, even as a few people passed by oblivious to the child lying there and writhing in pain.

The case has been transferred to the Bellandur traffic police for further investigation.

Suburban rail project: K-Ride, German bank sign ₹4,552 crore loan agreement

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-Ride) on Friday signed a €500 million (₹4,552 crore) loan and €4.5 million (₹40.96 crore) grant agreement with KfW Development bank, Germany, in New Delhi for the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP).

According to the press release from K-Ride, this milestone agreement with the German bank will facilitate the invitation of Corridor 1, Corridor 3 and system tenders, further expediting the BSRP.

The flagship BSRP is being implemented by the K-Ride, a joint venture company of the Karnataka Government and the Ministry of Railways, to provide an environment friendly and cost-effective mass rapid transit system in the City. BSRP was sanctioned with the project completion cost of ₹15,767 crore with the loan component of ₹7,438 crore from the multilateral/bilateral financial institutions.

Workers at the construction site of the ongoing Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project — Corridor 2 at Lingarajpuram in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

'Exclusive sports varsity needed'

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Minister for Higher Education M.C. Sudhakar on Saturday, said there is a need to establish an exclusive university for sports in Karnataka to bring out talented sportspersons. He was speaking after felicitating the Mangalore University Kabaddi Team that recently won the National Inter-University Kabaddi Championship at University Headquarters in Konaje.

Most parents want their wards to excel only academically and are not bothered about sports or cultural activities. A separate sports university could address this issue, he said.

The Minister also said students earn degrees, but not everyone was able to get employed.

There was need for introspection about the failure and introduce a new system based on skill for the overall development of the country, he said.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, DEC. 17		
RISE	06:34	SET 17:57
RISE	10:36	SET 22:27
MONDAY, DEC. 18		
RISE	06:35	SET 17:57
RISE	11:22	SET 23:24
TUESDAY, DEC. 19		
RISE	06:35	SET 17:58
RISE	12:05	SET 00:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	23
Mysuru	30	22
Bengaluru	27	19

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be slight cool. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C A mostly dry weather to prevail. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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Kolar women police team traces missing boy in 20 hours

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kolar women police on Friday traced a four-year-old boy who had gone missing mysteriously from Rahmatnagar in Kolar on Thursday.

The boy, one of three children of Salma, who worked at an incense stick factory, was in the washroom of the house close to the factory from where he ventured out and started walking. He reached Arahalli gate playfully and until then, no one paid attention to him. Upon reaching Arahalli, the boy panicked and started crying.

A passerby noticed him and asked about his parents. The boy was hardly able to speak, but remembered his grandfather's town of Palamaner in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh. Thinking that he had come from Palamaner, the man spoke to the bus driver and conductor of Palamaner bus and got the boy into the bus . The bus reached Palamaner and the conductor, without knowing what to do, handed over the boy to a hotel owner at the bus stand, asking him hand over the boy to his family if they come searching for him.

Meanwhile, the family had realised that the boy was missing and searched the entire area before filing a complaint with the women's police station. Inspector B. Shankarachar and team swung into action and looked for the CCTV footage only to find that the area did not have any. The police came up with a Plan B and made announcements in mosques and dargahs and started sharing the boy's details on WhatsApp groups asking people to share it as much as possible. Their efforts met with success as some people who had seen the boy in the hotel alerted the police number mentioned on WhatsApp. The police with the help of people who informed them got the photos of the boy on the phone and confirmed the same with the parents.

A team of police rushed to Palamaner and alerted the child's grandfather to reach the hotel and brought him back to Kolar to be reunited with the family.

Social media

"It was with social media and public support that we could manage to crack the case. Luckily, the boy had not fallen into the hands of anti social elements," Mr. Shankarachar told *The Hindu*.

M. Narayana, SP, Kolar, appreciated the team for cracking the missing boy's case in record time.

Previous case

This is is the second such case cracked by the women's police since October. The same team of police, in five hours, tracked down a woman and her daughter for kidnapping a new born baby from the district hospital and taking it to Tamil Nadu.

Boy dies in accident in DK

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

A 13-year-old boy, died in an accident on the Uppinanagady-Kadaba State highway in Dakshina Kannada on Friday.

The Kadaba police identified the deceased as Bipin Rai, 13, and Dharnappa, 40. Bipin and his 10-year-old sister Aatmisi Rai were riding pillion with their father Chadrashekar Rai. Near Kalar Masjid, the scooter was hit by a car driven by one Parameshwar Bhat. Rai and his children fell off.

Bipin died on the way to a hospital. Aatmisi Rai is undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Puttur. Chandrashekar Rai received treatment at Kadaba Government Hospital and then filed a complaint against Parameshwar Bhat, the police said. The Kadaba police registered the complaint for offence under Sections 304 (A), 279 and 337 of the IPC.

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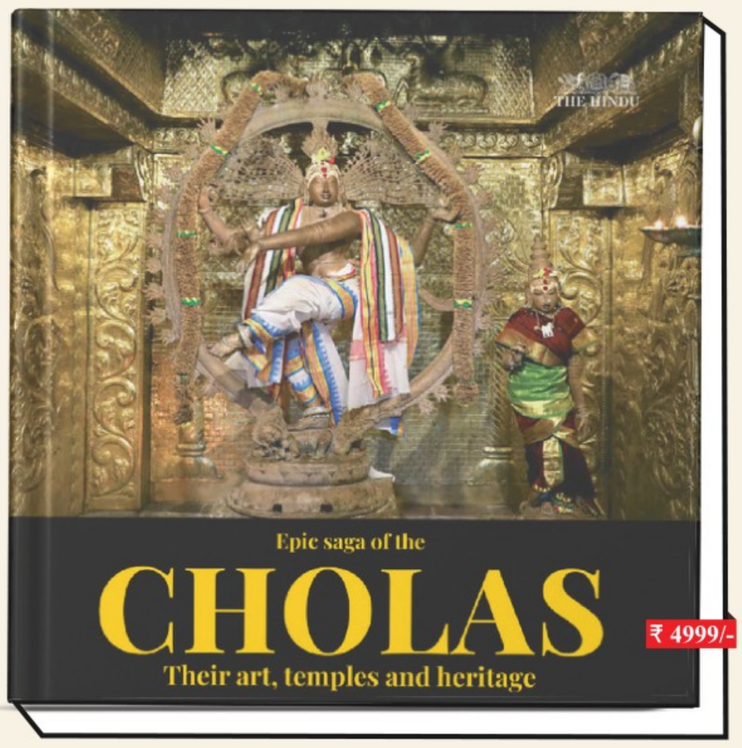
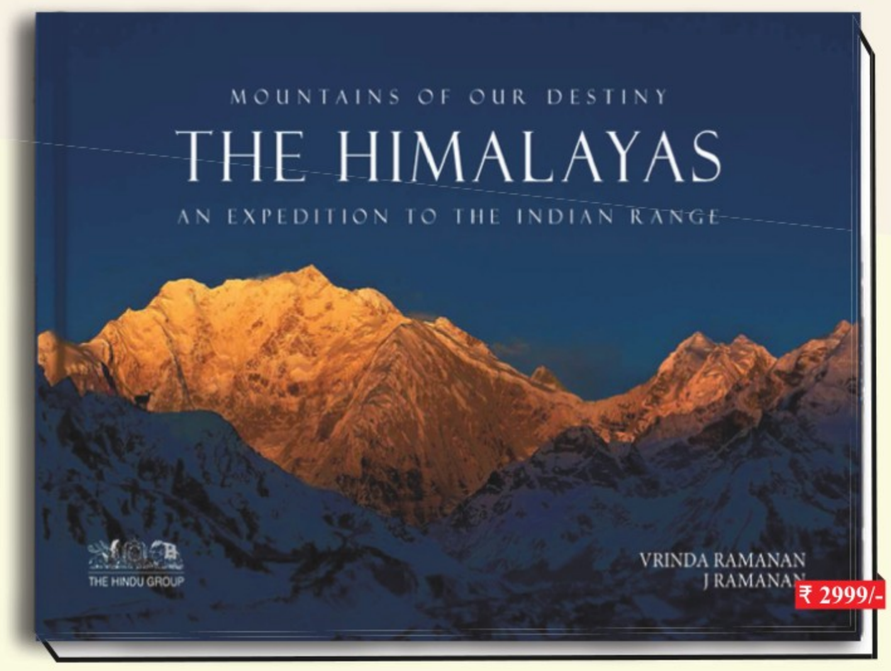
THE HINDU GROUP

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS FROM THE HINDU GROUP

Tirumala- The Seven Hills of Salvation is a coffee-table book on the holy shrine of Lord Venkateswara in Tirumala. The book contains articles by well-known writers on Hindu religion and philosophy. The articles cover subjects such as Srinivasa Kalyanam, the significance of Amuktha Malyada written by Krishnadeva Raya on Lord Venkateswara, Sri Ramanuja's important role in establishing the rituals and customs in Tirumala, the story of Ananthalwan and on the importance of Vaikunta Ekadasi. This collector's edition also features rare pictures of Lord Venkateswara, Sri Padmavathi and Tirumala. Apart from the above, there will be articles on TTD and it's excellent work in running the Tirumala temple.



The Epic saga of the Cholas, Their art, temples and heritage - The grandeur and heritage of the Chola dynasty from the Tamil country, which has fascinated scholars and the layman alike, has been brought out in this coffee-table book by The Hindu when the spotlight has been turned on the Cholas.



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IMA's State unit extends support to govt. in checking malpractices; demands inclusion in task force

Association criticises cases of illegal sex determination and female foeticide in Mysuru, Mandya, Hoskote, and Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Condemning sex determination and female foeticide, the State unit of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has extended its support to the State government in the investigation into the sex determination racket unearthed recently across Bengaluru, Mandya and Mysuru districts.

IMA State president S. Srinivasa told *The Hindu* on Friday that the medical body has 179 branches across the State and would collaborate with the government in exposing such malpractices.

"The revelations of illegal sex determination and female foeticide in Mysuru, Mandya, Hoskote and Bengaluru have exposed widespread malpractices in the medical field. Such illegal practices are harmful to society and our medical profession. IMA Karnataka State branch strongly condemns such illegal, inhuman acts and never supports doctors and other healthcare workers indulging in such acts," he said.

"The fact that such activities are going on despite stringent laws currently in place is worrisome and highlights the need for constant strict surveillance. The IMA Karnataka State unit demands that the government should conduct a thorough investigation into the matter and bring the culprits to book," he said.

BJP supporters led by former Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda protesting near Mehkri Circle on Saturday against the cases of illegal sex detection of foetuses. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In a statement, the IMA State unit has said it fully supports the work of the government in identifying and prosecuting fake doctors under the KPME Act. "In fact the IMA Karnataka branch through its State Doctors Against Sex Selection (DASS) Committee is active in creating awareness among its members and the society about the importance of girl child across the State for many years," the statement said.

"In this regard, we request the Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao to include IMA State unit president and heads of Karnataka Medical Council (KMC) and Ayush Council apart from Vice-Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) in the proposed government task force for effective implementation of the PCPNDT Act," the statement said.

"Mere strict laws cannot prevent female foeticide. We all have to create an environment where women are respected by informing everyone about the fact that men and women are equal. There is a need to create awareness in this direction. We urge the government to implement a stringent law that will punish the parents, relatives and agents who come asking for sex detection," the statement added.

COVID-19 subvariant JN.1: Karnataka on high alert

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following rising COVID-19 cases in the neighbouring Kerala and a slight increase in Karnataka, the State is on a high alert.

State Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, who held a meeting with officials on Saturday to take stock of the situation, said the COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will meet on December 19 to discuss the impact of the new COVID-19 subvariant JN.1, a descendant of BA.2.86, being detected in parts of Kerala. "We have asked the TAC to discuss and recommend precautionary measures to be initiated. The TAC chairman K. Ravi said that the committee will meet on December 19," the Minister told presspersons after the meeting.

Minister Dinesh Gundurao addressing the media on the COVID-19 situation, in Bengaluru on Saturday.

58 actives cases

"Of the 58 active COVID-19 cases currently in Karnataka, 11 are hospitalised (five in ward and six in ICU) while the remaining are in home isolation. There have been no deaths reported in the past two months. However, one death of a 64 year old has been reported from a Bengaluru hospital on December 15. The patient had multiple comorbidities and COVID-19 was an incidental finding," the Minister said.

Asserting that there is no need to panic or ramp up cross border surveillance as of now, the Minister said he had, however, instructed officials to ensure testing of all SARI cases and one in 20 ILI cases for COVID-19 in all private and government tertiary centres including medical colleges. "All border districts have been directed to be vigilant and ensure adequate testing and reporting," he said.

Procurement

The Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Ltd. (KSMSCL) has been directed to procure RTPCR and Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits and other required consumables to ensure adequate supply in all the government hospitals for the next three months, he said.

Following the Centre's directions, a mock drill has been initiated in all the government and private hospitals in the State. The exercise started on Thursday to take stock of preparedness to address any surge in COVID-19 cases.

"We are monitoring the availability of health facilities geographically, bed capacities, human resource capacity, referral services, testing capacities, logistics, medical oxygen and telemedicine services. The drill will be completed on December 18 and based on the findings, any shortcomings will be addressed," the Minister said.

"I have also directed the officials to ensure that samples of COVID-29 positive cases with CT value of less than 25 are sent to BMCRI for genome sequencing. This will help us in identifying the prevalent strains in the community," he added.

Judiciary will have to live with hacking: CJI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that recent 'hacking' into High Court of Karnataka's videoconference system has perturbed everyone in the legal fraternity, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said here on Saturday that the judiciary will have to live with such instances and cannot stop the use of technology.

"We have to make our Information and Communication Technology (ICT) systems more robust and ensure that if there is any instance or glitch like that we attend to it," the CJI said, addressing the judges of the HC while launching 11 e-initiatives of the HCK.

Total digital transformation

Pointing out that it was believed during initial stages of implementation of ICT that it is one part of the high courts as only a few knew about it and rest used paper files, the CJI said that what the apex court was aspiring for was total digital transformation of the Indian judiciary and the ICT has to be part of the heart of judiciary's ecosystem.

"We cannot have a divide among judges with some being conversant with technology and others not. Technology is an integral part of our processes," he said.

HC's clear message

On the HC's e-initiatives, the CJI said that it will send a clear message that in the very heart of India's technological proves, namely silicon valley in Bengaluru, the HC is not left far behind.

"The IT boom found its way to the rest of the country through Bengaluru and today the HC is leading the rest of country in digital transformation," he said while pointing out that there is an intense competition between the high courts to be ahead of the curve in the process of digitisation.

E-initiatives

Online digital case dairy on Android mobile application for litigants, advocates and government departments; installation of CCTV system inside and outside court halls in six districts, revamped website of the HC, e-summons through emails, and summons/notices in vernacular language were among the e-initiatives launched on Saturday.

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DIPR/AD-MDY/KSMCA/374 /2023-24

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients **Mr.Mahantesh Laxman Mugali S/o.Laxman H Mugali** and his wife **Mrs.Shweta Mahantesh Mugali,** called as PURCHASERS, are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Sri. S.V. Narayanaswamy S/o late.Venkateshappa, Sri. N. Bharath Babu S/o Sri S.V. Narayanaswamy and Sri .A. Gajendra Singh S/o late .D.K.Anantharam Singh** ; any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
Immovable property bearing **Site No. 6,** carved out of Converted Sy No.2, [conversion order No ALN(EBK)CR/76/2013-14, dated:5.5.2014, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban District] of **Kodigehalli village ,Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk,** measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet and in all measuring 1200 Square Feet, and bounded on the **East by: private property, West by: 30 feet road, North by: site no: 5, South by: site no :7.**
C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client is desirous of purchasing all that piece and parcel of the residential converted vacant Site No.353, (Sy.No.153/1) AECS 'C' Block, measuring 4000 Sq.Ft. layout formed by the ITI Employees Housing CO-OPERATIVE SOCITY LTD., Situated at Beguru Village, Beguru Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk. more fully described in the schedule below, from **SRI. Vijaya Raghava Reddy.N,** aged about 43 years, son of late Narasimha Reddy, residing at No.18, Lakshmi Kosha, 30th Main, Nanjappa Layout, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560076 (Owner);
Any person or persons having any claim of whatsoever kind, with regard to the schedule property or any portion thereof, may write to the undersigned within **fifteen (15) days** from the date of issuance of this notice with documentary evidence on which they are basing their claims with regard to the schedule property or any part thereof in any manner whatsoever, failing which may client shall proceed on that basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the residential converted vacant **Site No.353,** (Sy.No.153/1) AECS 'C' Block, measuring 4000 Sq.Ft. BBMP Khata No.360/353, Beguru BBMP WARD No.192, layout formed by the ITI Employees Housing CO-OPERATIVE SOCITY LTD., Situated at **Beguru Village, Beguru Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk.**
MEASURING
East to West : 80 Feet, North to South : 50 Feet, All measuring : 4000 Sq.Ft.,
BOUNDED ON:
EAST : Site No.366; WEST : Road;
NORTH : Site No.354; SOUTH : Site No.352
B.V. Kiran Kumar & Associates,
BAL, LLB, MBL.
Advocate & Legal Consultants
#59, Money Point, Ground Floor, GF 2.1/2, K.H. Road, Bangalore – 560 027.
E-mail: bvkirankumar1979@gmail.com
Ph: +91 9845322316, 8762681009

दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य रेलवे
क्रासिंग के रिकंडिसनिंग कार्य हेतु निविदा सूचना
क्रम सं.1 ई-निविदा संख्या : डीआरएम.इंजी-बीएसपी-टी-81-23-24, दिनांक 08/12/2023
कार्य- वरिष्ठ मंडल अभियंता पूर्व बिलासपुर के अधिकार क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत ट्रांसलेमैटिक रोबोटिक वेल्डर टेक्नोलॉजी द्वारा स्वस्थानी में सीएमएस क्रासिंग के रिकंडिसनिंग कार्य।
निविदा मूल्य (रु) : 70,02,990/-, अमानत राशि (रु) 1,40,100/-, कार्य पूर्णता की अवधि: 12 माह, **निविदा जमा करने की आरंभ तिथि :-** दिनांक 21-12-2023 से, **निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि :-** दिनांक 04-01-2024 के 11.00 बजे तक।
उपरोक्त ई-निविदा सूचना की पूरी जानकारी **http://www.ireps.gov.in** वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है। उपरोक्त निविदाओं हेतु ई-टेंडर के अलावा अन्य टेंडर स्वीकार नही की जाएगी।
मंडल रेल प्रबंधक (अभि.)
सीपीआर/10/337 *द.पू.म. रेलवे, बिलासपुर*
South East Central Railway @secrail

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayat, Chitradurga
Office of the District Health and Family Welfare, Chitradurga.
ದೂ: ಸಂ: 08194-235018 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: dhochitradurga@gmail.com
No.: DHFW/C/Supply/01/2023-24/ Date: 15.12.2023
E-Tender Notice
e-Tender is invited for purchase of Medical Equipment required for the sub-ordinate hospitals of the District for the year 2023-24.
Tenders can be uploaded in Karntaka Public Procurement portal from 16.12.2023 to 30.12.2023 up to 5.00 PM. Technical Bid of the Tender will be opened on 01.01.2024 at 11.00 AM.All the terms and conditions of the Tender can be obtained in website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
For further details contact the Office of the District Health and Family Welfare Officer during office hours.
DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/414/2023-24 Sd/- District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Chitradurga.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, NASHIK
E-Tender Notice No.54 for 2023-24 (Online)
Online E-Tenders in "B-2" Form (Item Rates) for the following works invited by Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nashik Phone No. (0253/2583761-64, 2575324) for and on behalf of Governor of Maharashtra State From Capable of P.W.Deptt. Registered / Unregistered Contractor or International Contractor whose Sub company / branch in India and also complete terms and conditions mentioned in tender document.
Tender document download on our website https://mahatenders.gov.in. Right of rejection of E-tender / cancellation of E-tender reserved by The Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nashik. *Conditional Tender will not be accepted.
Note :- Above mentioned E-Tender Notice including Total 1 (One) (Costing below from Rs. 5000.00 Lacks) Work And details of mentioned E-Tender Notice available on below website.
1. www.mahapwd.gov.in
2. https://mahatenders.gov.in

Tender Document Sale Start and End Date Time	18.12.2023		TO	16-01-2024	
	From	11:05		Upto	17.00

* Blank E-Tender form Fees (Non refundable) and EMD amount will be accepted Online only.
* Post Qualification criteria condition included in tender document
* All eligible/ intrested Contractors are required to be enrolled on portal **https://mahatenders.gov.in** before down loading tender documents and participate in e-tendering
* The information of E-Payment Gateway available on E-Tendering website **https://mahatenders.gov.in**
Please Note this to all Registered / Unregistered Contractors.
-Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division, Nashik
DGIPR/2023-2024/5735

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
Tender Notice No. 17/SBC/23 Dated: 06.12.2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works:

SL	Name of Works	Approx. Value
1	Bengaluru – Jolarpettai Section- Construction Foot over bridge (FOB) at Tyakal station (4 Track crossing). Maintenance period is 6 months	Rs. 3,42,87,512/-
2	Bengaluru -Jolarpettai section: **Sub Work-I:** Increasing of sleeper density of existing PSC from 1540 sleeper/km to 1660 sleeper /km on up line at km 336/300-341/500 for a length of 5.2kms between Krishnarajapuram – Whitefield Panel Cabin stations. **Sub Work-II:** Increasing of sleeper density of existing PSC from 1540 sleeper/km to 1660 sleeper /km on up line at km 231/300-236/600 for a length of 5.3kms in Senior Divisional Engineer/ E/Bengaluru Section.	Rs. 73,61,753/-
3	Bengaluru -Jolarpettai section: Supply of machine crushed ballast and loading at Tyakal Depot (32600 cum) in connection with the work of Through ballast recoupment for a total length of 16.3km from 132/200-148/500 SL in Bangarpete - Kolar section in Senior Divisional Engineer/E/Bengaluru Section.	Rs. 2,85,30,151/-
4	Bengaluru -Jolarpettai section: **Sub Work-I:** Yelhanka – Bangarpet Section: Proposed construction of boundary wall at Srinivasapura station from km 103/800-104/800 on LH side (1000m) in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Bangarapet sub division. **Sub Work-II:** Whitefield - Provision of overhead tank (OHT) of 1.00lakh litre capacity at Whitefield. **Sub Work-III:** Proposed improvements to approach road at Somanayakkanpatti and improvements to second class waiting hall at Kuppam station. Maintenance period is 6 months	Rs. 1,70,39,052/-
5	Bengaluru – Mysuru Section: **Sub Work-I:** Through Fitting renewal for a length of 10.7kms from km 1/300-12/200 Down line. **Sub Work-II:** Replacement of overaged SEJ with OSC improved SEJ - 52kg - 16 Nos in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Mandya section. **Sub Work-III:** Replacement of overaged SEJ with OSC improved SEJ - 60kg (T-6902) - 22 Nos in Assistant Divisional Engineer/ Mandya section.	Rs. 50,30,423/-
6	**Sub Work I:** Construction of Auto Goomties (3 nos.) Bengaluru-Yesvanthpur-Yelahanka route. **Sub Work II:** Provision of Pay and use toilet at Yelahanka (PF No. 4/5). **Sub Work III:** Bengaluru – Sampige road section : Provision of pay and use toilet at Chickbanawar station. **Sub Work IV:** Yesvanthpur - Additional accommodation for RPF barrack 25 beds and construction of dining/kitchen. Maintenance period is 12 months	Rs. 2,53,19,949/-
7	Bengaluru - Arasikere section : Repairs to CC Apron at PF No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 in Yeshvantpur yard. Maintenance period is 12 months	Rs. 2,43,97,263/-
8	Bengaluru division :P.Way maintenance contract for 2 years in Senior Section Engineer/PWAY/Channarayapatna section	Rs. 7,82,30,642/-
9	Assistant Divisional Engineer/Yesvanthpur Section: Balance work of construction of Boundary wall to prevent encroachment. Maintenance period is 12months.	Rs. 6,56,33,126/-
10	**Sub Work I:** Bengaluru - Dharmavaram section : Through Ballast recoupment of Points and crossings - 4 points at Oddarahalli Yard and 5 points at Makalidurga Yard (Total 9 numbers). **Sub Work II:** Bengaluru - Dharmavaram section : Conversion of SWP to LWR for a length of 4.2 km in loop lines of Senior Section Engineer/Pway/Yelahanka section (Channasandra - Rd 1, 3, 4 and Yelahanka Road - 1, 2). **Sub Work III:** Bengaluru - Dharmavaram section : Through turn out renewal of existing 1 in 12 curved switch and CMS crossing - 08 nos., at Yelahanka yard (100A, 101A, 102B, 103A, 104A, 105A, 105B, 106B). **Sub Work IV:** Bengaluru - Satya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam - Dharmavaram sec : Through sleeper Renewal (Primary) for a length of 0.474km at 8 bridges (PD14, PD21, PD24, PD84, PD86, PD127, PD129, PD139 in Senior Section Engineer/PWAY/Sathya Sai Prasanthi Nilayam section. **Sub Work V:** Bengaluru - Dharmavaram section : Earthwork in connection with the work of "Balance works in Devarapalle - Hindupur section in connection with Yelahanka - Penukonda doubling project"	Rs. 91,60,172/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 15:00 hrs. of 29.12.2023**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-ord Bengaluru
PUB/567/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway-SWR southwesternrailway_swr SWRRLY southwesternrailway SWRRLY

Three more arrested in Belagavi stripping case

A team from the National Commission for Women meets with the victim in district hospital; a BJP delegation also visits her. NHRC issues notice to Chief Secretary, police chief over the incident

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Member of the National Commission for Women Delina Khongdup speaking to presspersons in Belagavi on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Following the incident of a middle-aged woman being stripped, paraded naked, and assaulted at Vantamuri village in Belagavi district, a team from the National Commission for Women (NCW) on Saturday visited the district hospital in Belgavi where she is undergoing treatment. As many as 11 people have been arrested so far in the case.

The team led by NCW member Delina Khongdup interacted with the victim and collected details from her about the incident. Deputy Commissioner of Belagavi Nitesh Patil and Police Commissioner Rohan Jagadish accompanied them.

Two absconding

Meanwhile, the Belagavi police have arrested three more accused persons, including a minor, in connection with the incident. After the incident came to light, the Kakati police had registered a case against 13 persons and now with the arrest of three more, the total number of arrested persons in the case has risen to 11. Two more accused are absconding.

Belagavi Police Commissioner S.N. Sidramappa has issued an order suspending police inspector of Kakati Vijaykumar Sinnur for failure to prevent incident and dereliction of duty.

Meanwhile, upping its ante, a fact-finding committee of the Opposition BJP visited the district hospital on December 16. Members of Parliament Aprajita Sarangi, Sunita Duggal, Locket Chatterjee, and Ranjeeta Koli, and national secretary Asha Lakra met the woman and collected details. They were accompanied by Mangala Angadi, MP, Shashikala Jolle, MLA, and others.

The committee subsequently visited Vantamuri and the Kakati Police Station. Before meeting the victim, the team members held a video conference with party's national president J.P. Nadda.

Speaking to presspersons, the team members alleged that the Chief Minister and the Congress government had been apathetic towards the plight of the victim. When media persons asked questions on the urgency with which the BJP fact-finding committee had landed in Karnataka but had not shown the same urgency in case of such heinous crimes in BJP-ruled States, they accused media persons of "indulging in politics".

The BJP also held protests in all districts condemning the incident.

Responding to a query on the issue, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the government had taken all necessary action in the case and that the BJP was only "politicising" it.

In a related development, taking *suo motu* cognizance of the media reports about the Vantamuri incident, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the Chief Secretary of Karnataka and the Director-General and Inspector-General of Police seeking a detailed report within four weeks. It should include the status of the registration of the FIR, progress in investigation, arrest, if any, compensation under the Victim Compensation Scheme, if paid, and the steps taken or to be taken to prevent such incidents in the State.

In a press release, the NHRC observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of the human rights of the victim woman.

High Court imposes restrictions on those visiting victim

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

'No individual, group, association or political party should visit the victim without written permission of the medical officer in charge of hospital'

The High Court of Karnataka on Saturday directed that no person, individual, group, association or political party should visit the victim of the Belagavi stripping incident at the hospital without the prior written permission of the medical officer in charge of the hospital or the doctor treating her.

However, this restriction would not prevent the family members of the victim, the official representatives of statutory authorities/commissions or the investigating agencies to visit the victim in a need-based manner, the court made it clear.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Krishna S. Dixit passed the order in a special sitting held in the chambers after the Chief Justice spotted a news clip on a private television about the visit of a delegation of a political party to the victim. The court on December 12 had *suo motu* taken cognisance of the incident. "Considering the fact that the victim has suffered unbearable trauma and she has been undergoing medical treatment, in our considered opinion, the flow of visitors is likely to affect the health condition of the victim and disturb the ongoing medical treatment as well," the Bench observed in its order.

The Bench said that the court normally would not like to restrict the freedom of movement of any citizen as the visit of people to the hospital to see the victim, in the circumstances, is not unusual. However, the Bench said, in the present case "it is appropriate to restrict the visitors in the best interest of the victim and to secure undisturbed medical treatment".

Somanna plans to meet BJP national leadership

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

V. Somanna

Will decide on the next political course after the meeting, he says; the ex-Minister makes it clear that he is not aspiring for Lok Sabha seat

The former Minister V. Somanna on Saturday said he would decide on his future political course after meeting the BJP's national leadership in Delhi soon.

Mr. Somanna, who was in Mysuru on a private visit, told reporters that a delegation of four or five leaders would meet the party national leadership during December 20-22 period in the national capital.

While making it clear that he was not aspiring for a Lok Sabha seat, Mr. Somanna, fielding queries from reporters, said he would not like to discuss his defeat in the Assembly elections or conduct an introspection. "Whatever should not have happened has happened," he remarked.

However, he said he had faced the defeat graciously and even the party leadership was aware of the matter.

Referring to the BJP's victory in the recent Assembly elections in three States, Mr. Somanna said the country requires the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mr. Somanna made light of BJP MLAs S.T. Somashekar and Shivaram Hebbar attending a dinner meeting hosted for Congress MLAs. Both the MLAs were earlier in the Congress and just because they attended the dinner meet it "does not mean everything is not alright" in the party, he said.

'Accept Kantharaj panel report'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) State president Mukhyamantri Chandru on Saturday urged MLAs of all castes to come together and accept the Kantharaj Commission report on caste census that has already been prepared.

Mr. Chandru appealed to the MLAs to discuss the report in the legislature and see to it that people who have been wronged for ages get proper relief based on their true numbers.

State plans preferential public procurement policy to fuel growth of start-ups

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Priyank Kharge

Karnataka plans to formulate a preferential public procurement policy to help local start-ups, said IT and Biotechnology Minister Priyank Kharge in Belagavi on Saturday.

He was speaking at 'Techceleration 2023', an event organised by the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission to showcase the State's thriving IT, ESDM, and S&T sectors in the Hubballi-Dharwad-Belagavi Cluster.

"Along with our sector-specific ease of doing business initiatives, we are trying to develop a preferential public procurement policy that ensures government support for start-ups with unique intellectual property registered with our start-up cell and if invested and engaged in 'Beyond Bengaluru' initiative of the Government of Karnataka," the Minister said.

State, first customer

For such start-ups, the State government would also become the first customer. "This is a government policy that ensures that your products and services with unique IP can be procured by the government," he added. He said the government understood the journey of entrepreneurs because the government was here to listen, learn, and adapt to meet the needs of the State's dynamic startup ecosystem.

Through this policy, the government was committed to supporting start-ups which were willing to go beyond Bengaluru and deadline for submission of the application would be extended till January 5, 2024, he added.

Commenting on market potential and opportunities for additional job creation in the State, Mr. Kharge said, "We understand that in America, there is a requirement for one million chip designers in the next five years, and we think in India, Karnataka has the potential to address this challenge. Our human resource is highly agile."

Registration for Yuva Nidhi to begin this month

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Siddaramaiah-led Congress government in Karnataka will roll out the Yuva Nidhi scheme – which aims to provide monthly allowances to unemployed degree and diploma holders – by the end of December, said Randeep Singh Surjewala, AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka.

"The registration process for the rollout of our fifth guarantee scheme Yuva Nidhi, which provides honorarium to unemployed graduates and ITI graduates, will begin by the end of this December. The government will implement the fifth guarantee of our party as promised," he said.

Mr. Surjewala said the State government had reserved ₹38,000 crore for implementing the five guarantee schemes in the current year.

NIMHANS to roll out NAMAN rural mental health programme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

NIMHANS, in association with Ashraya Hastha Trust (AHT), signed an MoU with multiple stakeholders to implement a comprehensive rural mental health programme named 'NAMAN' (NIMHANS-AHT Comprehensive Mental-Health-Action-Program for Rural Communities) in two taluks in the country. The programme will cater to the mental health needs of the entire population in Munsiyari taluk of Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand and Belur taluk in Hassan district of Karnataka. The programme plans to follow a lifespan approach, which would cover the entire population "from womb to tomb".

The national launch of the programme will be held on December 18 at NIMHANS. The proposed programme will be completed within three years. NIMHANS will develop the road map for the overall implementation of the programme, and All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Rishikesh, will collaborate with NIMHANS as a sub-hub for its successful implementation in Uttarakhand, according to a release.

APPOINTMENT

NLC India Limited
('Navratna' - Government of India Enterprise)
Regd. Office: 135, EVR Periyar High Road, Kilpauk, Chennai - 600 010
CORPORATE OFFICE: BLOCK-1, NEYVELI - 607 801, TAMIL NADU
CIN: L93090TN1956GOI003507 Website: www.nlcindia.in
CREATING WEALTH FOR WELLBEING
ADDENDUM Advt.No:04/2023
Recruitment of Executives in Various Grades
It is hereby informed that the Online registration of applications for the posts of Deputy General Manager (Mining) [E-7 Grade] and Executive Engineer (Mining) [E-4 Grade] notified vide Advt. No. 04/2023 will be re-opened. For Detailed Information, please refer to ADDENDUM to be released on 20.12.2023 in the Career page of NLCIL Website "www.nlcindia.in".
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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (Divyangjan)
(Dept. of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India)
Muttukadu, East Coast Road, Kovalam (P.O), Chennai - 603 112. Tamil Nadu – India.
Phone: 044 – 27472113, 27472423. Mobile: 94443 14716.
Toll Free No: 18004250345 Kiran Mental Health Helpline No: 1800-599-0019
~ Accredited by NAAC~ ~ ISO 9001:2015~
Employment Notice No. 06 (Regular)/2023
NIEPMD(D) invites applications from Indian Nationals, who fulfill the prescribed qualification, experience, age and other conditions for filling up the following sanctioned regular posts, as per the details given against each:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post	Group/Scale of pay	Mode of Recruitment
1.	Deputy Registrar (Admin)	01 (one)	Group-A Rs.67,700/- to 2,08,700/- Level -11 (7th CPC)	Deputation failing which by Contract

For detailed advertisement, essential/desirable qualifications, age limit, format of application and the recruitment fee details etc., please visit our website: www.niepmd.tn.nic.in. The last date of receipt of applications with fee and necessary documents is 30 days from the date of publication in employment news.
Sd/-
DIRECTOR

INDIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE
DEATH
DOB: 15/10/1934 - DOD :16/12/2023
SOMA VARALAKSHMI
W/o Late P.S. SELVARAJAN
Retd. Deputy Director of School Education
Govt of Tamil Nadu
Son & daughter-in-law
P.S.Venkat & S.V.Sumathy - 7299099369
Son-in-law & daughter
Dr.M.Srinivasan & Dr.P.S.Durga devi
9840100996

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CHOWDIAH HALL A/C
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NEENGAL KETTAVAI TAMIL SONGS [SUNDAY]
SRINISHA SRISHA
24.12.2023 6.05PM
- Remembering -
RAFI KISHORE S.P.B
HINDI ♪ KANNADA ♪ TELUGU
MOHAMMED ASLAM ▪ HAMID KHAN ▪ SHRUTHI RAGHAVENDRAN ▪ SHRUTI BHIDE
25.12.2023 6.05PM [CHRISTMAS]
Tks 9884152200 www.bookmyshow.com

Questioning oneness of Bharat is wrong: Rajnath

R. Sivaraman
CHENNAI

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said questioning the oneness of Bharat was wrong and a bad idea.

He participated in the one-day 'divine' *Thirumurai Thiruvizha* and the celestial wedding of Madurai Meenakshi and Sundareswarar, organised by the International Mudaliar Pillaimar Association (IMPA) – a non-profit community service society.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Singh said religio-spiritual thoughts, beliefs, and socio-economic practices formed the template on which the idea of Bharat was sustained and strengthened across millennia.

"In recent times, there has been a concerted campaign to challenge the foundational aspects of Bharat's cultural and spiritual unity. Mischievous elements persistently propagate the notion that India is not a nation, but a mere union of States. This misguided interpretation of India's national and cultural identity is historically inaccurate and is due to a lack of understanding of the cultural nationalism in the Indian context or a profound hatred for all things Indian," he said.

The disruptive and secessionist tendencies that have emerged are being effectively addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is actively reinforcing the national fabric of our cultural unity, he added.

SFI stages protests as Khan arrives at Calicut university amid tight security

Kerala Governor says the protest is sponsored by Chief Minister because he wants to divert attention from the financial crisis in the State; scuffle breaks out between police and SFI activists; banners against Governor put up inside the campus

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

Students Federation of India (SFI) activists staged protests inside and outside the campus of the University of Calicut at Tenhipalam in Malappuram district on Saturday evening as Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan arrived there on a three-day visit amid tight security.

Addressing the media at the university guest house, Mr. Khan repeated his allegation that those protesting against him were "criminals hired by the Chief Minister". "... I am not aware of the protest, where is the protest? Whatever protest is there, it is sponsored by the Chief Minister personally because he wants to divert attention from [the financial] crisis in the State," Mr. Khan said. Asked about the alleged bid to "saffronise the universities", he said Kerala had the largest number of ancient temples in the country and asked whether they all can be removed. Mr. Khan also said that according to verses in the Koran, saffron was the colour best suited for the eyes.

Tough job: Police personnel taking away SFI activists from the Calicut university campus on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The SFI activists began their protest on the campus around 4 p.m., a couple of hours before the Governor was supposed to reach there.

The protesters, who staged a sit-in, were taken away to nearby parked police vehicles. When some of the activists resisted the police action, a scuffle broke out between the two. The SFI activists later alleged that the clothes of women activists were torn in the melee. It took around an hour to remove all protesters.

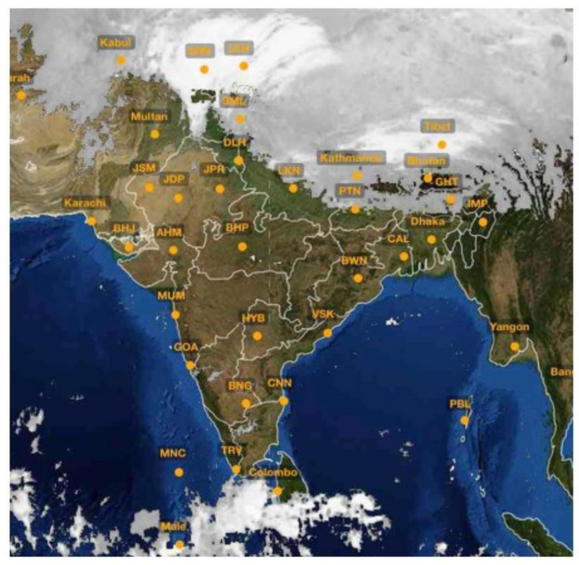
Around 7 p.m., reports came that Mr. Khan had reached the Calicut International Airport and was on his way to the campus. Just ahead of his motorcade reaching the university, scores of SFI activists sprung from nowhere and staged another round of sit-in a few metres away from the guest house. However, by 8 p.m. the protesters were arrested and taken away.

Ahead of the protests, the SFI activists had put up banners on the campus against the Governor, saying '*Sanghi Chancellor wapas jao*', 'Mr. Chancellor, you are not welcome', and 'Chancellor go back'.

Meanwhile, several pro-Left service organisations held a demonstration in front of Kerala Raj Bhavan in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday, accusing Mr. Khan of attempting to 'saffronise' State universities.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over south Tamil Nadu, south Kerala and Lakshadweep. Thunderstorm with lightning & gusty winds likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Punjab, Haryana, Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	26.2	12.3	Kozhikode	—	34.6	25.6
Ahmedabad	—	28.6	19.0	Kurnool	—	31.0	20.2
Aizawl	—	22.8	10.5	Lucknow	—	24.1	9.7
Allahabad	—+	26.4	9.4	Madurai	—	30.2	23.0
Bengaluru	—	27.3	19.1	Mangaluru	—	33.0	23.2
Bhopal	—	27.9	11.9	Mumbai	—	32.8	19.4
Bhubaneswar	—	27.2	13.2	Mysuru	—	29.8	20.3
Chandigarh	—	23.2	7.1	New Delhi	—	24.7	5.5
Chennai	13	29.8	24.7	Patna	—	25.0	10.2
Coimbatore	—	30.0	21.5	Port Blair	—	31.8	26.7
Dehradun	—	22.9	7.0	Puducherry	—	—	21.0
Gangtok	—	15.4	7.6	Pune	—	27.6	14.2
Goa	—	33.2	22.2	Raipur	—	27.4	13.6
Guwahati	—	26.4	11.5	Ranchi	—	23.2	8.2
Hubballi	—	30.0	21.0	Shillong	—	17.3	6.3
Hyderabad	—	26.9	17.6	Shimla	—	16.9	6.8
Imphal	—	23.2	8.1	Srinagar	—	8.4	-1.3
Jaipur	—	25.0	11.0	Thiruvananthapuram	0.6	30.0	25.0
Kochi	—	31.4	25.8	Tiruchi	—	30.1	22.6
Kohima	—	26.2	5.0	Vijayawada	—	29.3	22.0
Kolkata	—	25.4	15.1	Visakhapatnam	—	28.5	21.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO 2	NO 2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	4	7	30	166	140	
Bengaluru	4	31	53	61	101	
Chennai	13	27	113	86	70	
Delhi	34	240	160	395	428	
Hyderabad	5	107	43	165	149	
Kolkata	13	59	49	285	202	
Lucknow	7	49	99	248	199	
Mumbai	16	66	69	213	150	
Pune	—	21	49	246	127	
Visakhapatnam	15	49	41	160	130	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Begusarai, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 452 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Revanth asks BRS to hear out facts in the House

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy stated in the Assembly on Saturday that the Treasury benches would not send the Opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) members out of the House for any reason, but would make them listen to the facts with the hope to bring about a transformation in them.

In his reply on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address to the House, he said the people had given a clear verdict against the "family rule" in the State and sent the BRS to the Opposition benches. The people would send them out of the Assembly, if they failed to make amends with a sincere introspection, he said.

Stating that he was disappointed with the BRS, Mr. Reddy said he was hoping that it would give other members of the party, who have enough experience, an opportunity to lead it in the Assembly, but it did not happen as the MLAs had chosen K. Chandrashekhar Rao as their leader. Even the opportunity to speak on the Governor's Address was given to "a family member who had come to the Assembly in the management quota", the Chief Minister said.

A. Revanth Reddy

Explaining the autocratic tendencies of the previous BRS regime, Mr. Reddy said former Home Minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali was not allowed inside Pragathi Bhavan, the official residence of the Chief Minister, once by a homeguard . He sought to know how many Telangana statehood movement martyrs' families were allowed even entry into Pragathi Bhavan in over nine years of rule.

He accused the BRS of "selling" a Rajya Sabha seat to a person who had made over ₹400 crore by selling COVID-19 injections in the black market.

The Chief Minister also asked the status of cases registered during the statehood movement on the family members of Mr. Rao and on other activists, including the unemployed youth, in 2023 compared to 2014.

Centre writes to Kerala to ensure safe pilgrimage to Sabarimala

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Union Minister for Tourism, Culture and Development of Northeast Region G. Kishan Reddy on Saturday wrote to Kerala seeking steps to address the issues and inconveniences being faced by Ayyappa devotees during their pilgrimage to Sabarimala.

In a letter addressed to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Mr. Reddy requested the State to deploy adequate staff and personnel, ensure safe and secure passage for the devotees, along with improved basic amenities and medical assistance during their journey to Sabarimala.

Heavy rush: Ayyappa devotees move through the Neelimala-Sannidhanam trekking path on Saturday. LEJU KAMAL

The reports of severe inconveniences being faced by devotees, including the long wait at the Sannidhanam and the recent death of a young girl while waiting for darshan, also caused much anguish and pain, said the Minister.

He requested the State to consider permitting NGOs that are ready to provide assistance to operate on the temple premises and around the trekking path from Pampa to the Sannidhanam.

Two held for smuggling 400 kg of marijuana

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Special Operation Teams of Balanagar, along with the Jeedimetla police, seized 400 kg of marijuana from two inter-State smugglers.

Officials said that the accused were smuggling the contraband to Latur in Maharashtra from Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh.

The accused, both natives of Madhya Pradesh, were identified as Bablu Khare, 23, and Govind Patidar, 42, the police said. "Their supplier Bablu, a native of Odisha, and the receiver, Aravind, from Latur, are currently at large," the police said.

The men were paid ₹75,000 as an advance to transport the contraband across borders.

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
'JAL BHAVAN', No. 6, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout
Bannerghatta Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 029
Phone : 080-41106507 - 18.
e-mail: cekwbbng@gmail.com website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

CORRIGENDUM

Rel: 1. This Office Tender Notification No: 810 Dtd: 16.11.2023. 2. Karnataka Public Procurement Portal tender No: KUWSDB/2023-24/ WS/WORK_INDENT74.

Revised Calendar of Events:-

1)	last date and time for receipt of tenders in e-procurement portal	02-01-2024 up to 17.30 hours
2)	Date and time of opening of tenders in e-procurement portal	05-01-2024 after 11.00 hours

DIPR/CP/2602/AKAR/2023-24

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER (B), KUWS & D BOARD, Bengaluru

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
KPTCL/GMT(CIVIL(B121)/26/2023 DGMC (E-80398) Dated: 16/12/2023

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Second Call)
(THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites e-procurement bids from eligible bidders for the work of providing housekeeping services to KPTCL office premises in 'A', 'B' and 'C' blocks of Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru. The offers will be received in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only. The approximate annual cost of the service put to tender is Rs.99.25 lakhs (including GST). Other details regarding qualifying requirements, duration of contract, EMD and details regarding participating in e-procurement process etc., can be obtained by logging onto KPTCL website: https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in hyperlink E Procurement KPTCL or to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 19/12/2023. Last date for receipt of electronic bids is upto 15.00 hours on 30/12/2023. Any details required in this regard can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours (Telephone No. 080-22238784).

Sd/- General Manager (Tech)
KPTCL, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru-560009

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
VIJAYANAGAR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, BALLARI.
Cantonment Area, Director:8147796529, PA: 8147796539,
e-mail : vimsballaridirector@karnataka.gov.in ,
e-mail :directorvimsballari@gmail.com
website: www.vims.karnataka.gov.in
NO.VIMS/SUP/TEND/TR&J/04/2023-24, Date:14.12.2023

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from the eligible bidders for Supply of Medical Books and Dental Text Books, Reference books and Journals (Print) to VIMS, Ballari under Two bid system through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** of Government of Karnataka as per the KTPP Act-1999-2000. The interested bidders are request to submit Tender in above said e-portal on or before **29.12.2023 up to 5.00 PM**. The total approximate cost of tender is **Rs.105.00 Lakhs.** Further details may be obtained in the above said website and **www.vims.karnataka.gov.in**.

Sd/- Director, VIMS, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/560/KSMCA/2023-24

Karnataka Government Secretariat
Finance Department
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru.
No. FD 02 BMB 2023 Date: 16.12.2023

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

It is notified for general information that the outstanding balance of **9.25% Karnataka SDL 2024** issued in terms of the Government of **Karnataka**, Finance Department Notification No. **FD 02 BMB 2013 dated January 10, 2014** will be repaid at par on **January 16, 2024** with interest due up to and including **January 15, 2024.** In the event of a holiday being declared on the aforesaid date by any State Government under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, the loan will be repaid by the paying offices in that State on the previous working day. **No interest will accrue on the loan from and after January 16, 2024.**

2. As per sub-regulation 24 (2) and 24 (3) of Government Securities Regulations, 2007 payment of maturity proceeds to the registered holder of Government Security held in the form of Subsidiary General Ledger or Constituent Subsidiary General Ledger account or Stock Certificate shall be made by a pay order incorporating the relevant particulars of his bank account or by credit to the account of the holder in any bank having facility of receipt of funds through electronic means. For the purpose of making payment in respect of the securities, the original subscriber or the subsequent holders of such a Government Securities, as the case may be, shall submit to the Bank or Treasury and Sub- Treasury or branch of State Bank of India, where they are enfaced / registered for payment of interest, as the case may be, the relevant particulars of their bank account.

3. However, in the absence of relevant particulars of bank account / mandate for receipt of funds through electronic means, to facilitate repayment on the due date, holders of **9.25% Karnataka SDL 2024** should tender their securities at the Public Debt Office, 20 days in advance. The securities should be tendered for repayment, duly discharged on the reverse there of as under:

"Received the Principal due on the Certificate"

4. It should be particularly noted that at places where the treasury work is done by a branch of the State Bank of India, the securities, if they are in the form of Stock Certificates, should be tendered at the branch of the bank concerned and not at the Treasury or Sub-Treasury.

5. Holders who wish to receive payment at places other than those where the securities have been enfaced for payment should send them duly discharged to the Public Debt Office concerned by Registered and Insured Post. The Public Debt Office will make payment by issuing a draft payable at any Treasury / Sub-Treasury or branch of State Bank of India conducting Government Treasury work in the State of **Karnataka.**

Sd/- (Dr. P. C. Jaffer), Secretary to Government (Budget & Resources), Finance Department

DIPR/CP/RO2594/AAPL/2023-24

SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL International School of Textiles & Management
Ministry of Textiles, GOI, Coimbatore – 641004
Ph : 0422 – 2571675, 2592205

NOTICE

SVPISTM, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, Coimbatore invites Tenders from Indian and International Textile and Technical Textile machinery manufacturers for supplying prototyping needle punching machine only for academic activities.
For further details visit :
www.svpitm.ac.in Director.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby notified that my client intends to purchase the schedule immovable property from **Mrs. GAYATHRI MUKUND,** aged about 57 years, Wife of R. Mukund, residing at No. 77, CQAL Layout, Sahakaranagar, Bengaluru-560 095.
Any person having any right, title and interest whatsoever in the schedule property may submit his/her/their objections with supporting documents with the undersigned within **10 days** from the date of this publication failing which my client would proceed and finalize the transaction with the above said person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential site bearing No.77 measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 60 Feet totally measuring 2400 Sq Feet, PID No.63/63/77, along with old house and has mosaic flooring with jungle wood frames and iron shutters standing thereon comprising of ground floor measuring 1500 sq feet, comes under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.8 Kodigehalli, Layout known as CIL/CQAL Layout 2nd Phase, Situated at Sahakaranagara, Kothihosahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District and bounded on the;
East by: Site bearing No. 78.
West by: Site bearing No. 76.
North by: Site bearing No. 74.
South by: Road.

Milan .K.A, Advocate
No.10, 3rd Floor, Brindavana, Yashoda Nagara, Opposite Jakkur Aero Drome, Bellary Road, Bengaluru 560 064.
Mob: 9900699788.

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department
Office of The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Chickballapur Division, Chickballapur. Phone: 08156-270058
E-mail ID: eerdwsd.ckb2@gmail.com
EE:RDW&SD:CBP:AE-1: 2023-24 DATE: 12.12.2023

Tender notification No. 02,04,06,08,09,11,13,15,18&28/Call-3&4/2023-24, Date:12.12.2023

Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Chickballapur, On behalf of Governor of Karnataka Invites request for proposal of tenders from the eligible bidders for the work of Providing FHTC"S to **166** Villages in Bagepalli Taluk & **53** Villages in Chinthamani Taluk Chickballapur District . One &Two Cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTPP act shall be followed. The tenderers are required to submit **(Under KW-I KW-II KW-III & KW-IV)** tenders through KPPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ (1)** Last Date & Time for Queries **:18.12.2023 Time : 5.30 PM. (2)** Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: **20.12.2023 Time: 5.30PM. (3)** Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening: **22.12.2023 Time:11.00 AM. (4)** Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening: **26.12.2023 Time : 11.00 AM.** More details can be had from the office of the undersigned and also through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** by clicking List of Tenders which will link to all Dept. works list.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Chickballapur
DIPR/CHIKKBALLAPUR/RO:172/KSMCA/2023-24

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project-Central-2 Division, Annexe-2 Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002.
No.EE/PC-2/TEND/01/2023-24 Date:16.12.2023

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER(IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Project-Central-2 Division invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the works detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	EMD (in Rs.)
1	"Consultancy Services for assisting in preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Comprehensive Development of Roads by providing White Topping in Gandhinagar and BTM Layout Constituencies in Bengaluru City" **(Package-7).**	**23,250/-** (To be paid through KPP Portal only)

1) Availability of REP Document: **18.12.2023 onwards. 2)** Last date for receipt of queries : **20.12.2023 upto 17.30 Hrs. 3)** Pre-bid meeting: **21.12.2023 at 15.00 Hrs. 4)** Last date for submission of proposals: **26.12.2023, upto 17:30 Hrs. 5)** Date of opening of technical proposals: **28.12.2023 at 11:30 Hrs.** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact undersigned office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project - Central-2 Division.

M BG-BGE

From Page One

MPs' suspension, breach not linked, says Speaker

Mr Birla said that the nation had witnessed such security scare in the past as well, including incidents such as visitors carrying pistols, shouting slogans, jumping from the visitors' gallery and throwing leaflets.

Without naming anyone, he also referred to the February 2014 incident when an MP from Andhra Pradesh had carried a pepper spray inside the House to oppose the creation of Telangana.

"At the time of all such incidents, the House has displayed exemplary solidarity and expressed its collective resolve against such incidents," the Speaker noted.

The December 13 security breach - when two men had jumped inside the Lok Sabha chamber from the visitors' gallery with canisters of yellow smoke - has become the latest flashpoint between the government and the Opposition parties belonging to the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc.

Both Houses of Parliament remained paralysed amid protests from the Opposition parties, who insisted on a statement from Home Minister Amit Shah. On Thursday, 13 Lok Sabha members and one Rajya Sabha member were suspended for disrupting the proceedings.

'School of happiness' to take root in Assam

Mr. Boro said the idea of a school specialising in peace-building and spreading happiness had germinated since his party, the United People's Party Liberal, formed the BTC government with the BJP and the Gana Suraksha Party three years ago.

Upholding co-existence

"The objective was to instil in youth and community leaders the human values for co-existence in a region and country inhabited by people of diverse faiths, cultures, languages, and ethnicity – all interdependent. We felt such values needed formal schooling through which a team of peace ambassadors can be produced toward resolving conflicts at the micro and macro levels," he said.

The school of happiness had its genesis in a pilot project called Bodoland Happiness Mission introduced almost a year ago.

Some 400 youth and community leaders were chosen to become peace and happiness volunteers after undergoing a few weeks of training at the Bodoland Community Counselling Centres. Each district has one such strategically located centre.

"The trainees were made aware of various laws related to social issues, taught how to remove conscious and unconscious biases to help increase self-awareness and understanding of others, steps in barefoot counselling and maintaining the right body postures during counselling, and exercises for de-stressing and staying calm in adverse situations," Padmini Brahma, in-charge of the happiness programme, told *The Hindu*.

Some of the 'peace volunteers' said the training helped them look beyond their community-specific boundaries.

"I used to think only about ourselves. I have begun to understand people beyond my family and tribe, and how to behave with people different from us," Hobila Rabha, president of the Kashiabari Anchalik All Rabha Women's Council in the Kokrajhar district, said.

"What I have learned is to correct the mistakes of the past, apologise, and move on by ensuring such mistakes are never repeated. One cannot cocoon oneself in a connected world," Rathia Basumatary said, agreeing that many in BTR and areas beyond carry the scars of conflicts.

"The training was an eye-opener," Mijanur Rahman, a youth leader, said.

Mr. Boro said the courses would be designed at a later stage.

India and Oman in talks to sign an economic partnership agreement

The two countries sign five documents, including an agreement to prevent money laundering; Prime Minister Narendra Modi says that the presence of a large number of Indians in Oman is a living example of the healthy bilateral relations

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Ceremonial reception: President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcoming Sultan of Oman Haitham Bin Tariq at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Saturday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

India and Oman are on track to sign a comprehensive economic partnership agreement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Saturday. Welcoming Sultan Haitham bin Tarik the ruler of Oman to his first state visit to India, Mr. Modi said that the presence of a large number of Indians in Oman is a living example of the healthy relation between the two countries.

"Our proximity is not just geographical and indeed reflects in our thousands of years' old trade and cultural links. This also reflects in the way, we always give priority to each other," the Prime Minister said in his speech welcoming the ruler of Oman. In a briefing after the official meeting, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said that this is the first state visit to India by an Omani ruler in 26 years.

Sultan Haitham bin Tarik took charge in 2020 after the death of Sultan Qaboos, who was known for his friendly attitude to India.

The same year, Sultan Qaboos was honoured with the Gandhi Peace Prize by India.

Bilateral discussions held at Hyderabad House included the situation in Israel and the Palestinians, Mr. Kwatra said explaining that India is closely following the situation.

The two sides signed on five documents that included an agreement between the Financial Intelligence Unit of India and the National Centre for Financial Information (NCFI) to prevent money laundering. As a gesture to celebrate the ancient relation between India and Oman the two sides also took up a proposal by the Ministry of Culture to recreate the maritime voyage of a stitched ship which is expected to sail from Mandvi in Gujarat to Muscat during 2025-26. Mr. Modi and Sultan Haitham bin Tarik "strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations".

They underscored the significance of fostering the universal values of peace, moderation, coexistence and tolerance," a Joint Statement said.

NIA arrests key accused in Attari heroin seizure case

Devesh K Pandey
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on December 15 arrested a key accused in connection with the seizure of over 102 kg of Afghan-origin heroin at the Attari border in April 2022, after he was intercepted by immigration officials while trying to flee to Dubai. The accused has been identified as Amritpal Singh. He is the third person arrested in the case. The case pertains to the seizure of heroin worth about ₹700 crore, which was being smuggled from Afghanistan via India and Pakistan, by Customs officials at the Attari post in Amritsar last year. The drugs had been concealed in a consignment of licorice roots.

Mr. Singh's alleged role in the drug nexus came to light following the examination of some people and also due to transactions he did through the bank accounts of the other accused.

BJP is politicising Parliament security breach, says Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rahul Gandhi

Unemployment and inflation, brought about by the policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are the main reasons for the security breach in Parliament, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Saturday.

"There has definitely been a security breach and that's there. But why did it happen? The biggest issue before the country is unemployment and it's simmering across the country because of the policies of Modi *ji*," Mr. Gandhi told presspersons at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters after attending a meeting of the political affairs committee of Gujarat. "There has definitely been a breach but behind it is unemployment and inflation," he added.

Subsequently, in a post on X, Mr. Gandhi said, "Where are the jobs? The youth are disappointed. We have to focus on this issue and provide jobs to the youth."

His comments came just days after the government accused the Congress and other INDIA partners of politicising a "grave national issue".

Hitting back at the government, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said only the BJP and the Home Minister were "politicising" the issue.

The Congress leader said those people who keep talking about national security could not even protect Parliament House.

Mr. Venugopal said that while BJP MP Pratap Simha, who had recommended issue of passes for the intruders to enter the visitors' gallery of the Lok Sabha, faced no action, the government was suspending Opposition MPs for raising questions.

Raising voice against unemployment not treason; free our son: Jha's parents

Amit Bhelari
DARBHANGA

Troubled times: Lalit Jha's parents at their house at Rampur Udai village in Darbhanga district of Bihar. AMIT BHELARI

Devanand Jha, 68, said that his son Lalit Jha, 28, who is allegedly the mastermind behind the Parliament security breach, has not committed a crime for which he should be punished. Mr. Devanand Jha stressed that raising a voice against unemployment is not treason and that the police should release him immediately.

The Delhi Police have invoked sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, an anti-terror law, against Mr. Lalit Jha and five others.

"Lalit is my second son. He is very talented and always ready to help others," said the father, adding he had graduated in science and wanted to become a doctor. He was giving tuitions in Kolkata to make ends meet.

The family mostly lives in Kolkata, but on December 10, Lalit dropped them at the Sealdah railway station where they boarded a train for Darbhanga, he added. "He touched my feet and I gave him ₹250 as a blessing. Then he told me that he was going to Delhi for a few days because he had some important work. I had no idea what that important work was," Mr. Devanand Jha said, now at their five-room ancestral home in Rampur Udai village, in Benipur block.

He further said his son's methods may not have been ideal, "but the issue he has raised about unemployment in the country is right. He has not committed a crime like murder, theft, or dacoity."

Mr. Devanand Jha is a full-time priest now, and until 15 years ago, was a farmer as well, cultivating about half a hectare of land. Now, his health does not permit it. The father says his son is an admirer of Bhagat Singh and Chandra Shekhar Azad. "There was a time when his Kolkata room was filled with the pictures of these two revolutionaries. He always used to say that he wants to bring change in society," Mr. Devanand Jha said.

Mr. Lalit Jha's mother, Manjula Jha, 62, sits in a broken chair and cries, pleading for her son's release. "I don't know the seriousness of his act but what I do know is that he can never commit a crime. He had visited the village two years ago and whenever he came, he would teach children," she said. "Yesterday it was only when the police came to our house that we got to know that something had happened in Delhi and that my son is involved, and the police have arrested him," she said. Both parents say their son never really spoke about what he did in his spare time. When his mother asked what he was going to Delhi for, he said it was just to meet his friends.

"My elder brother told me yesterday that police have also questioned him in Kolkata. He is not involved in any wrongdoing; neither is Lalit *bhaiya*. Police also questioned my *bhabhi* (sister-in-law). I am sure that sooner than later my brother will come out of jail," Sonu Jha, the second son, said.

Ajay Jha, a neighbour, said, "They all are very honest people." Another villager, Priyaranjan Mishra, said, "He is not a terrorist. He is a simple person who has revolutionary thoughts," Mr. Mishra said. Sushila Jha, who is Mr. Devanand Jha's sister-in-law, said, "Lalit is innocent; he has been wrongly arrested for no reason."

It is alleged that after the incident Mr. Lalit Jha had sent a video of the security breach to one of his friends in West Bengal, who was associated with an NGO, where he had worked earlier. He also destroyed the mobile phones of four other accused, reports say.

Navy deploys plane, warship after vessel reports hijack in Arabian Sea

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

In distress: *m.v. Ruen*, a vessel with an 18-member crew, had sent a Mayday message indicating boarding by six unknown persons. PTI

The Navy has swiftly responded to a call for help following a hijack involving a Malta-flagged cargo vessel with 18 crew on board in the Arabian Sea, officials said on Saturday.

The Navy swung into action after receiving a Mayday message (distress call) on the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operation (UKMTO) portal on December 14. The vessel, *m.v. Ruen*, indicated that six 'pirates' had illegally boarded it, the officials said.

The Navy's maritime patrol aircraft undertook surveillance missions in the area and its warship on anti-piracy patrol in the Gulf of Aden were deployed to locate and assist *m.v. Ruen*. The Navy said its aircraft flew over the hijacked vessel and movement of the vessel is being monitored. It said the vessel is now heading towards the coast of Somalia.

"Responding swiftly to the developing situation, the Indian Navy diverted its naval maritime patrol aircraft undertaking surveillance in the area and its warship on anti-piracy patrol in the Gulf of Aden to locate and assist *m.v. Ruen*," a naval spokesperson said.

"The aircraft overflew the hijacked vessel on the early morning of December 15 and the aircraft has been continuously monitoring movement of the vessel, which is now heading towards the coast of Somalia," he said.

The official said the Navy's warship deployed in the Gulf of Aden for anti-piracy patrol also intercepted *m.v. Ruen* on Saturday morning. The situation is being monitored in coordination with other agencies in the area, he said. It is learned that the Navies of Spain and Japan have also responded.

"The Indian Navy remains committed to being a first responder in the region and ensuring safety of merchant shipping, along with international partners and friendly foreign countries," the official said.

Delhi Police arrest sixth accused, say conspiracy on for two years

Alisha Dutta
Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Paramilitary personnel keep a watch at Parliament House following the security breach that took place in the Lok Sabha. ANI

The Delhi Police on Saturday arrested Mahesh Kumawat, a 33-year-old associate of Lalit Jha, the alleged "mastermind" of the conspiracy behind Wednesday's security breach in Parliament. Mr. Kumawat has been booked for conspiracy and destruction of evidence.

While seeking custody of Mr. Kumawat, the police told the Patiala House Court that the conspiracy had been on for the past two years. The accused group had held multiple meetings in various locations in Mysuru, Gurugram, and Delhi and their sole aim was to create anarchy and compel the government to meet their "illegal demands".

These submissions were made by Public Prosecutor Akhand Pratap Singh in the court of Hardeep Kaur, an Additional Sessions Judge and special NIA judge.

The Delhi Police sought 15 days of custody for Mr. Kumawat, citing the need to recover the destroyed and damaged electronic devices used to plan the security breach. The court remanded him in police custody for seven days.

Mr. Kumawat was provided with legal aid, as he did not have a lawyer

The police said that Mr. Kumawat and his cousin Kailash had provided shelter to Mr. Jha when he fled from the national capital immediately after the security breach.

According to police sources, Mr. Jha left Delhi on a bus to Kuchaman City in western Rajasthan, where he met Mr. Kumawat, who had also been supposed to join the group at Parliament on December 12, but had been unable to make it to Delhi since his mother had stopped him.

"Mahesh and his cousin Kailash took Jha to a rented room in Nagaur where they destroyed the phones. The two then informed Kailash that they were going to surrender before the Parliament," said a senior police officer.

Mr. Kailash was detained on Thursday.

Congress to start crowdfunding drive ahead of LS polls

Initiative, said to be inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's historic Tilak Swaraj Fund, will be launched on December 18

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the Congress has announced a nationwide crowdfunding campaign, "Donate for Desh", to generate resources for the party.

It claimed that the initiative was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's historic Tilak Swaraj Fund, which was launched over a hundred years ago in 1920-21.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge will formally launch the digital mode of the campaign on December 18, Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal and party treasurer Ajay Maken said at a press conference at the party headquarters on Saturday. The physical mode of the campaign, including a door-to-door collection drive, will start on December 28, the party's 138th foundation day.

Sending a political signal ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the Congress announced a mega public rally to be held on its foundation day in Nagpur, where the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh has its headquarters.

"All the senior leaders will be there. We expect about 10 lakh people at the rally," Mr. Venugopal said.

Mr. Maken said that any Indian citizen above the age of 18 could donate a minimum of ₹138, or its multiples, to the party. "Once someone makes a payment, they will get a certificate signed by the Congress president," he said.

"Our inaugural campaign, 'Donate for Behtar Bharat', commemorates the 138-year journey of the Indian National Congress. Embracing our history, we invite supporters to donate multiples of ₹138 (₹138, ₹1,380, ₹13,800, or more), symbolising the party's enduring commitment to a better India," Mr. Venugopal said.

The party has created two channels for this online crowdfunding. While one is a dedicated website (donateinc.in), the party's own official website will also allow a person to make a donation. Party workers and volunteers will be given a target to reach at least 10 houses in every booth for contributions.

Nath out; Jitu Patwari to lead Congress in M.P.

Party appoints OBC leader new State chief despite his losing the Assembly polls; in Chhattisgarh, it picks former Speaker Charan Das Mahant as CLP leader; move comes days after rout in elections

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL/RAIPUR

Days after the debacle in the Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh Assembly elections, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday replaced Kamal Nath with Jitu Patwari as the M.P. Congress chief and named former Speaker Charan Das Mahant as the leader of the legislature party in Chhattisgarh instead of former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

Deepak Baij will continue as the PCC chief in Chhattisgarh, an AICC announcement said.

The change of leadership in these States is being seen as enforcing a system of accountability as the Congress was considered a favourite to win Madhya Pradesh and expected to retain Chhattisgarh.

In Madhya Pradesh, Umang Singhar has been appointed Congress Legislature Party leader, while Hemant Katare will be the deputy leader.

"The party appreciates the contributions of outgoing PCC president, Shri Kamal Nath," a letter by party general secretary K.C. Venugopal read.

New faces: Congress leader Jitu Patwari (left) and Charan Das Mahant (right). FACEBOOK/ JITU PATWARI AND X/@DRCHARANDAS

Mr. Patwari, who was a Minister in the 15-month Kamal Nath government from 2018 to 2020, has been entrusted with heading the State unit despite his defeat in the recent election from the Rau Assembly constituency in Indore district of the Malwa-Nimar region, from where Chief Minister Mohan Yadav hails from.

Mr. Patwari has been holding the post of working president at the MPCC from 2018.

Mr. Patwari, a young OBC leader, appears to be the Congress's attempt to counter the BJP's OBC consolidation in the polls which it has tried to solidify after picking Mr. Yadav as the Chief Minister. OBCs form nearly 52% of the State's population.

Following Saturday's announcement, Mr. Nath took to X to congratulate Mr. Patwari, Mr. Singhar and Mr. Katare.

Former Minister

Mr. Mahant has held the responsibility of Chhattisgarh Congress president six times in the past, including as working and acting president, besides being a Minister in the Ajit Jogi-led first Congress government. He was among the contenders for the top post after the election win of 2018 before it went to Mr. Baghel. Mr. Mahant was then chosen as the Speaker of the Chhattisgarh Assembly.

In an election in which nine Ministers of the erstwhile Bhupesh Baghel Cabinet and PCC president Deepak Baij lost, Mr. Mahant was among the two senior-most leaders – the other being Mr. Baghel himself – to win. He is an OBC leader from the Bilaspur region and comes without any baggage of allegations the previous government faced. What works against him is the relative lack of aggression, say party sources.

Since the defeat, there have been constant murmurs of discontent by various Congress leaders in Chhattisgarh.

The State unit sacked two former MLAs for pointing a finger at senior leaders, and issued a show-cause notice to former Minister Jaisingh Agrawal for his remarks alleging that the party failed to appear united during the poll campaign.

INBRIEF

Rahul Gandhi is a blessing in disguise for BJP, says Fadnavis

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday said the people of the country have rejected the "seven" poll guarantees of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, and shown that only one guarantee is enough – Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr. Fadnavis was referring to the BJP's victory in the recently held Assembly elections. He also described Mr. Gandhi as a "blessing in disguise" for the BJP and said, "One needs to be lucky to have an Opposition leader like him...The Congress never adopted changes in the organisation nor gave importance to its workers like the BJP does." He expressed confidence that the BJP form the government at the Centre again.

Man accused in many cases of impersonation held in Odisha

The Special Task Force (STF) of the Odisha Police has arrested a Kashmiri man accused of faking his identity as a doctor and an official in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), and marrying several women. The man, identified as Sayed Ishaan Bukhari, 37, hails from Kupwara district of Kashmir. He was arrested from Neulapur village of Odisha's Jajpur district on Friday. The STF booked him for impersonation, forgery, and alleged terror links as he was regularly in touch with two Pakistani individuals, and suspicious persons in Kerala. "We will further investigate his activities," the STF official said.

Modi flags off Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in 5 States, says focus will be on smaller cities

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Future plans: Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagging off the yatra in five States via video conferencing, on Saturday. ANI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that hundreds of small cities would play a key role in strengthening the grand edifice of a developed India.

After interacting with beneficiaries of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) via video conferencing, Mr. Modi said the cities had a huge role to play in the determination of a developed India. "Whatever development took place for a long time after Independence, its scope was limited to some big cities of the country. But today, we are focusing on the development of Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities in the country," he said.

He cited the AMRUT Mission and Smart City Mission to upgrade basic facilities in small cities. "These upgrades are directly improving ease of living, ease of travel, and ease of doing business," Mr. Modi said.

He flagged off the campaign in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Mizoram, where it was not initiated in view of the Assembly elections. He had launched the nationwide campaign in Jharkhand on November 15. Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said "Modi *ki* guarantee" vehicles were now reaching all parts of the country, and had so far covered thousands of villages and nearly 1,500 cities, including smaller cities and towns.

The Prime Minister highlighted the assistance provided by the Union government during the COVID-19 pandemic; the disbursal of thousands of crores into the bank accounts of about 20 crore women; ensuring free COVID-19 vaccines; free rations for poor families; and assistance worth lakhs of crores to small businesses.

"Modi's guarantee begins when expectations from others cease," he said. Mr. Modi said street vendors and hawkers had been connected to the banking system, and could now get loans easily under the SVANidhi Yojana, under which over 50 lakh people had so far benefited.

On the issue of social security for urban dwellers, the Prime Minister said the Atal Pension Scheme had six crore subscribers, ensuring ₹5,000 monthly pension after the age of 60.

"Centre is committed to saving money for urban families, be it exemption in income tax or low-cost treatment," he said, adding that crores of urban poor had been covered under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, and it had helped them save ₹1 lakh crore on medical expenses.

'Weapons with warring groups, instability in Myanmar have grave implications for Manipur'

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

Lieutenant-General Rana Pratap Kalita, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Army Command, on Saturday said that the availability of a large number of firearms with warring groups in Manipur, coupled with instability in neighbouring Myanmar, had grave implications for the situation in the strife-torn northeastern State.

He said the Army and the Assam Rifles, in concert with the State police and the Central Armed Police Forces deployed, had been able to control the violence to a large extent in Manipur, where the Meitei and the Kuki communities are at loggerheads with each other.

Lt. General Rana Pratap Kalita

"The availability of a large number of weapons with both communities, as also the instability in Myanmar across the border, has certain implications for the situation in Manipur," Lt. General Kalita said.

He was speaking to presspersons after a wreath-laying ceremony at the Vijay Smarak in the Eastern Command headquarters Fort William in Kolkata on the occasion of Vijay Divas on December 16. Cautioning that though there are chances of some sporadic incidents of violence taking place in the strife-torn State, he said the aim of the Army and Assam Rifles had been to control such occurrences to a large extent.

'Reducing violence'

"While peace and reconciliation process is being carried out by the Central and the State governments, our focus has been on reducing the violence parameter," he said.

Lt. General Kalita, however, said it is difficult to give a time limit in resolving the problem which has got a lot of historic and legacy issues.

The Eastern Army chief said the Army and the Assam Rifles, which were called in following clashes that broke out in Manipur between the Kukis and the Meiteis on May 3, were within a short time able to establish some semblance of law and order and the situation was brought under control.

"Thereafter there have been certain sporadic incidents which led to escalations at times, but there is a lot of dialogue going on at different levels and we are also launching proactive operations in concert with the State police and the CAPF deployed there," he said.

Greeting the over 70-member Bangladeshi delegation, including 30 Mukti Joddhas, serving Bangladesh Army officers and family members, Lt. General Kalita said the epic victory of India in the 1971 war against Pakistan not only led to the birth of a new nation but also changed the geopolitics of South Asia.

On Vijay Divas

"Eastern Command was at the forefront of the 1971 war, hence Vijay Divas occupies a special pride of place in the history of the command," he said.

The highest degree of dedication and commitment towards the accomplishment of assigned tasks has kept the Eastern Command fully geared to any challenges, Lt. General Kalita added.

E-Mail : sencrwangul@yahoo.co.in; Ph. No.06764-236404
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL
No. 3186// Dt. 14.12.2023 //
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Work in Odisha
Bid Identification No. Road Online AGL-36/2023-24

1. Name of the Work : Road Work
2. Total No. of Work : 01 No.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.1077.56 Lakhs
4. Class of Contractor : As per Annexure
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul	Road Online -AGL-36/2023-24	20.12.2023 at 10.00 A.M.	03.01.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.	02.01.2024 up to 1.00 P.M.	04.01.2024 at 11.00 AM	Will be intimated separately

For detailed Notice Inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul.
O-1820: OIPR-25180/11/0050/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, PHULBANI (R&B) CIRCLE, PHULBANI
Phone:-06842 254004 E-mail : sernbphulbani@gmail.com
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No.CCE_R and B_PLB_20 of 2023-24
No. 3019 Dated : 16/12/2023

1.	The Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for construction of the Bridge & Building works as detailed in the table below from eligible contractors.		
2.	Nature of work	:	Bridge & Building Works.
3.	No. of tenders	:	Three Nos
4.	Tender Cost	:	Rs.10,000/- (through online) only.
5.	Class of Contractor	:	B, A & Special Class
6.	Date & Time of sale & receipt of Bids	:	10.00 AM of 22.12.2023 to 5.00 PM of 05.01.2024
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	11.00 AM of 06.01.2024
8.	The Bidders shall have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.		

Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani.
B-1469: OIPR-34129/11/0022/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, CANAL CIRCLE, BURLA
e-Procurement Notice No.CCB-04(01-02)/2023-24
Bid Identification No.-CCB-04(01)/2023-24 to CCB-04(02)/2023-24

1.	Type of the work	:	VRB Work
2.	No of Works	:	2 (Two) nos.
3.	Class of Contractor	:	"B" & "A" Class
4.	Bid Identification No.	:	CCB-04(01-02)/2023-24
5.	Estimated Cost	:	Rs.212.94 Lakhs to Rs.213.75 Lakhs (Approx)
6.	Period of Completion	:	12 (Twelve) Calendar Months including rainy season
7.	Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal	:	Dt.21.12.2023 at 10.00 AM to Dt.10.01.2024 up to 5.30 PM
8.	Last Date / time for receipt of bids in the portal	:	Dt.10.01.2024 up to 5.30 PM
9.	Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)	:	Dt.11.01.2024 at 11.30 AM, O/o Additional Chief Engineer, Canal Circle, Burla.
10.	Date of Opening of Financial Bid (Cover-II)	:	To be intimated later
11.	Name and Address of the Officer inviting Bid	:	Additional Chief Engineer, Canal Circle, Burla - 768017 Email Id: addlceccburla@gmail.com

1. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation/erratum of tender can also be seen in the said Website.
2. Further details can be seen from Government Website http://tenderodisha.gov.in .
ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, CANAL CIRCLE, BURLA
A-1005: OIPR-32460/11/0008/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
CENTRAL IRRIGATION CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR.
'e' Procurement Notice No. ACECIC-27/2023-24

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	Bid Security (Rs.) E.M.D.	Cost of Bid documents (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Bid documents available online for bidding From	To	Date of opening of Technical Bid	Period of completion of work
ACE, CIC, Bhubaneswar	PID-14/2023-24	Renovation of Budhanga Distributary from RD.0.00 Km to 7.00 Km of Sakhigopal Branch Canal.	796.42	796500/- (On Line)	10000/- (On Line)	"A" & "Special" Class	18.12.2023 At 10.00 Hours	01.01.2024 At 17.00 Hours	02.01.2024 At 11.00 Hours	12 (Twelve Calendar Month)

e-mail ID:- secic_dowr@yahoo.com
Further details conditions can be seen from Govt. website:www.tenderodisha.gov.in
Additional Chief Engineer, Central Irrigation Circle
A-1027: OIPR-32160/11/0033/2324

Ph. No. 06670-235504; E_Mail: serwbpt@yahoo.com
GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS, CIRCLE, BHAWANIPATNA.
Bid Identification No.:- BPT/Online-39/2023-24 Date: 16.12.2023
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR BRIDGE WORKS IN ODISHA
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e - Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Bridge-Cum-Weir to the existing / ongoing bridges in the District of Nuapada.
2. No of Works : 03 Nos.
3. Location details : Nuapada District
4. Estimated Cost : As per NIT
5. Period of Completion : As per NIT.
6. Cost of tender paper : Rs.10,000/- per set
7. Other details :

Availability of tender for online bidding From	To	Last date & time for seeking tender clarification	Date and time of opening of technical bid
26.12.2023 11.00 A.M.	09.01.2024 5.00 P.M.	08.01.2024	10.01.2024 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the web site "www.tendersorissa.gov.in"
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Bhawanipatna
O-1829: OIPR-25102/11/0051/2324

INBRIEF

Congress wants Statehood, early elections in J&K

The Congress on Saturday demanded the restoration of Statehood and early election in Jammu and Kashmir during a meeting held in Jammu, in the wake of the recent Supreme Court judgment on Article 370. A party spokesman said the resolution called for the restoration of Statehood and the Assembly election in J&K. These demands were made in a resolution passed by the executive committee of the Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) after a meeting in Jammu. The meeting was chaired by Congress State president Vikar Rasool Wani. It took stock of the situation against the backdrop of recent judgment by the Supreme Court upholding the Centre's decision to end Jammu & Kashmir's special Constitutional position of J&K.

Voluntary task force set up to tackle mental health issues

The Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) has set up a national mental health task force in response to the alarming rise in mental health issues and deaths by suicide among doctors. The voluntary facility comprises psychologists, psychiatrists, and resident doctors to provide support in managing stress and mental health issues, the association said in its letter to the Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. It's now common knowledge that doctors are overburdened with hectic schedules, long duty hours without breaks, and mental stress, which leads to loneliness and depression, the FAIMA chairperson Rohan Krishnan noted.

Bill to regulate drugs, medical device upsets stakeholders

Patient groups, healthcare providers, and manufacturers' associations have expressed their dismay as the Centre prepares to table the New Drugs, Cosmetics and Medical Device Bill, 2023, in Parliament, without adequately addressing their concerns, the groups concerned said in a statement issued on Saturday. While the proposed legislation is aimed at regulating the medical device sector, industry leaders argue that key issues such as regulatory complexities, the potential impact on innovation, and the need for a conducive business environment have yet to be adequately assured by redressal in the proposed Bill.

Four die of diarrhoea in Rourkela, over 100 in hospital

Four persons died and over 100 others fell sick following a diarrhoea outbreak in Rourkela city of Odisha. The incident took place in the Udit Nagar area of the city. During the past two days, four persons, including a woman, died of suspected cases of diarrhoea. More than 150 patients were admitted to the Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) for treatment. While over 50 patients were discharged, 100 persons still remained admitted. The majority of cases were reported from slums of Panposh, Udit Nagar and Chhend. Water samples have been collected and sent for further test.

SUDOKU

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						5		

No.SS6010 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	8	2	4	1	6	7	5	9
1	7	6	9	3	5	4	2	8
5	9	4	2	7	8	3	1	6
6	2	5	3	4	1	9	8	7
9	3	8	7	6	2	5	4	1
4	1	7	8	5	9	2	6	3
7	5	3	6	8	4	1	9	2
2	6	1	5	9	3	8	7	4
8	4	9	1	2	7	6	3	5

Optimistic on trade agreement ahead of elections: Swiss, Norway Ministers

The Trade Ministers discuss IPRs, goods trade and other issues with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal in Delhi; they say IPRs and copyright concerns are 'bread and butter' issues for them; the EFTA countries are yet to sign a deal with the South American group, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

No timeline can be given on the conclusion of talks between India and four Nordic countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) for a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), said the Trade Ministers of Switzerland and Norway during a visit to Delhi. However, they still hope differences can be resolved in the next few months, before the election process gets under way in India.

Government officials indicated that though the most recent round of talks between trade negotiators from India and the four countries – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland – saw the process "gain momentum", several issues remain. Briefing journalists about the outcome of talks this week, the Commerce Ministry officials also said that discussions on "trade in goods and services, trade and sustainable development, SPS [sanitary and phytosanitary] measures, trade remedies and associated trade facilitation, and rules of origin" are still going on.

In particular, the Ministers, who met Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday, said that Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) or patents and copyright concerns with India were a key "bread and butter" issue for them.

"In EFTA [all four countries] understand each other when it comes to Research & Development [R&D], and so for us, it's always a key issue. I tell Minister Goyal, it is a bread and butter issue for us to secure the best possible in IPRs," said Helene Budliger Artieda, Swiss Director of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), speaking to *The Hindu* in an interview given jointly with Norwegian Trade Minister Jan Christian Vestre.

"IPRs are always a challenge for Switzerland and [negotiations with] India are not unique in that. We are known as the most innovative country, and have quickly moved from an agricultural country into industrialisation and Switzerland is one of the leading R&D nations," Ms. Artieda added, as she said the two sides are closer to an agreement than "ever before, but there are still some remaining topics" to be ironed out.

Norway Minister Jan Christian Vestre with Switzerland Minister Helene Budliger, left, in New Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

EFTA-India negotiations for a TEPA, that began 15 years ago, are among several trade agreements that the government's negotiators are working on simultaneously as they try to meet various deadlines ahead of the election process, which is likely to slow down all the talks, including with the U.K., Australia, European Union, Gulf Cooperation Council, and others after February. When asked whether talks with EFTA could take a backseat to the others, especially the U.K. and Australia, which have both already missed several deadlines in the past year, Mr. Vestre said that it was "up to the Indian side to decide their priorities".

"What we can say is that the negotiating team on the Indian side are extremely hardworking people and extremely talented and skilled in all aspects, and we admire how they work on all the different [agreements]," he added. Ms. Artieda said running parallel negotiations with a number of countries is "business as usual". The EFTA countries, that are not part of the European Union, have already completed 30 FTAs, and are currently negotiating agreements with the South American group MERCOSUR, Thailand, Vietnam, and Malaysia.

Ms. Artieda said both sides acknowledge the need to "speed up" the TEPA talks now, and thus had visited India seven times already, while Mr. Vestre was on his third visit to India this week to negotiate the agreement.

"I think we are progressing and that's also why we keep coming back," Mr. Vestre said. "We have some homework to do, and the Indian side said they have some homework to do, but we remain optimistic about this," he added, when pressed on a timeline for the TEPA agreement.

Speaking at an event in Kolkata last week, Switzerland's Ambassador to India Ralf Heckner had said that he remained "positive that the deal would be wrapped up before the [2024] election," and sources had indicated a new push for the agreement last year could bring EFTA leaders to the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (VGGS) to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi early next year. However, the timeline has been pushed back slightly, the sources said, given the introduction of new lines into the list of goods in trade, and the continuing issues over IPRs.

"India-EFTA TEPA negotiations have gained momentum. Both sides have exchanged key interests with regard to trade in goods and services," the Commerce Ministry spokesperson told *The Hindu*, when asked about whether the new list would delay the TEPA process further, while diplomatic sources said that it was "one of the open chapters and part or the ongoing negotiations".

Both the Norwegian and Swiss Trade Ministers stressed the mutual benefits of a trade agreement, especially given India's large market size and the amount of business the four countries already generate. According to their figures, EFTA nations that rank eighth worldwide in terms of combined merchandise trade, generate more than 2,00,000 jobs in India. In addition, Norway hopes to engage with India about its plans for the mining of critical minerals that China currently has a monopoly on, which could be a key component of India's plans for 50% of its energy capacity to come from renewables by 2030.

(With inputs from Vikas Dhoot)

Muslims lost faith in Sunni Waqf Board: Jamaat chief

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi Barelvi, president of All India Muslim Jamaat, on Saturday said that Muslims in India have lost faith in the Sunni Central Waff Board as it has failed to take steps to construct a mosque on the five acres of land given by the Supreme Court in Dhannipur, Ayodhya in lieu of Babri Masjid.

He also suggested that the Board invite Prime Minister Narendra Modi, instead of Macca Sharif Imam, to lay the foundation stone for the proposed mosque. "The construction at Dhannipur has not begun on this site yet, while the Ram Mandir is complete and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be attending the consecration ceremony. Despite having permission, the Sunni Waqf Board failed to put even a brick at the mosque site," he said.

Panel seeks vacancy details in Ministry, and child rights and women's commissions

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A parliamentary panel has asked the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development to submit a detailed plan on filling existing vacancies within the Ministry and the autonomous bodies affiliated to it.

In its report submitted on December 13, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports noted that it had previously flagged the existing vacancies against the sanctioned positions in the Ministry and in autonomous bodies such as the National Commission for Women (NCW), National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), the Central Adoption Resources Authority (CARA), and the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD).

Smriti Irani

In an action-taken report, however, the Ministry had informed the panel that it still has 44 vacancies despite engaging in regular correspondence on filling them with the Department of Personnel and Training. The NCPCR has filled up three positions against six vacancies, of which one has already resigned. The CARA still has 12 vacancies and the NCW has 14. The NIPPD still has 214 vacant posts.

Not accepting the government's replies, the committee recommended that a "detailed plan to monitor and speedily expedite the process of filling these vacancies be shared with the Committee".

Separate suggestion

In a separate recommendation, the committee asked the Ministry to formulate a set of guidelines in consultation and coordination with concerned stakeholders for corporates to channelise their social responsibility (CSR) funds into building anganwadi centres.

"These defined Guidelines will be helpful in creating clear, measurable parameters for the corporates to follow towards investing in building Anganwadi centres and in allocating CSR funds that are in alignment with the interests of corporates, the government, and local communities, thereby supporting the development and well-being of children and women across the nation," it said.

Sub-strain JN.1 of SARS-CoV-2 traced in Kerala woman

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A case of SARS-CoV-2 subvariant JN. 1 has been detected in Kerala as part of an ongoing routine surveillance activity of the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), a senior official from the Indian Council of Medical Research said on Saturday.

The case was detected in an RT-PCR positive sample from Karakulam in Thiruvananthapuram district on December 8, Rajiv Bahl, Director-General of the ICMR, said.

The sample had tested RT-PCR positive on November 18, he added.

The 79-year-old woman had mild symptoms of influenza-like illness (ILI) and has since recovered from COVID-19.

"There has been an increasing trend of COVID-19 cases from Kerala in the past few weeks. This has been attributed to an increase in the number of samples from ILI cases being referred for testing," Dr. Bahl said.

A majority of these cases are clinically mild and the patients are recovering on their own at their homes, he added.

As part of a regular exercise of the Union Health Ministry, a drill at all health facilities in the States is under way to assess their public health and hospital-preparedness measures.

This activity, which started on December 13, is being carried out under the overall supervision of the district collectors and is likely to be completed by December 18, Dr. Bahl said.

The Union Ministry is in regular touch with the Kerala Health Department and monitoring various entry points to the State.

The INSACOG is a network of genomic laboratories that has been monitoring COVID-19 in India from a genomic perspective.

Ayodhya residents hope to cash in on homestay model

Mayank Kumar
AYODHYA

Asutosh Singh, 41, lost his job as a business manager in a private firm in Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh, during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. "I saw the toughest of times with no income, with even close relatives turning me away," he says. His wife, who works in a school, has been supporting the family.

He is now hopeful of a substantial income, after sensing a tourism opportunity in his hometown, Ayodhya, with the opening of the Ram temple in January 2024.

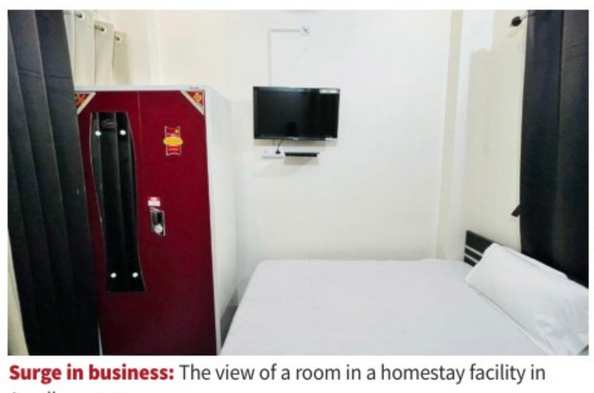
"Now, I can support my family like I used to, with three rooms in my house certified under the homestay concept," he says.

Mr. Singh is among the few residents who have registered a portion of their house under the homestay concept over the last couple of months in Ayodhya, and are expecting to make a handsome income as the temple nears completion. "I am earning ₹10,000 to ₹12,000 a month, but that will increase after January 22 [after the consecration]," he says.

Certification necessary

Anticipating the massive influx of devotees, the Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA) and local administration conceived of the homestay idea in August 2023.

Through an application process, local homeowners will be awarded certification or accreditation allowing tourists to stay in the same house as them, or a separate portion, while fulfilling basic parameters.



Surge in business: The view of a room in a homestay facility in Ayodhya. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"We invite applicants who fulfil our basic requirement of documentation and our checklist of basic amenities. After that, an audit of the property is conducted, and individuals meeting the specifications are given approval by the ADA and the district administration, and subsequently registered on Uttar Pradesh Tourism's Holy Ayodhya app," says Rakesh Kumar Singh, a consultant at ADA. The necessary checklist requires 14 basic amenities, including beds with clean linen, a toilet, CCTV cameras, private parking, and newspaper delivery. The checklist for the bathroom includes buckets, mugs, a geyser, a wash basin, a mirror and a hair dryer.

At present, 160 properties on the app are open for booking, while an equal number have been listed by owners on private online platforms. Roughly 500 people have applied for accreditation.

"The most important part is the low rent, generally between ₹1,500 and ₹2,000 a day for a double-occupancy room. It is a price that hardly any hotel can compete with in peak season," says Manoj Kumar of Shri Balaji Homestay.

"If we are booked 20 days in a month, we stand to earn between ₹80,000 and ₹1 lakh," says Mr. Singh. This is a princely sum for the residents of Ayodhya, where the per capita income is at ₹52,569 a year, according to government data.

With rules for building hotels getting tighter in the town, many business people have also decided to go the homestay route. "The administration is keeping a watch on commercial constructions, hence many are converting hotels or lodges to residential properties and leasing them out as homestays," says Sushil (name changed).

LOS ANGELES

Matthew Perry died of accidental ketamine overdose, examiner finds

REUTERS

Friends actor Matthew Perry died from an accidental ketamine overdose, medical examiners said on Friday. Perry, who had struggled with drug addiction for decades, died at the age of 54, having been found unconscious in a swimming pool at his house in Los Angeles in October. AFP

DUBAI

Shipping firms suspend Red Sea traffic after Yemen rebel strikes

REUTERS

Two of the world's largest shipping firms, Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd, said they were suspending passage through a Red Sea strait, after Yemeni rebel attacks in the area. The Iran-backed Houthis say they are targeting shipping to pressure Israel during its two-month-old war with Palestinian Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip. AFP

TEHRAN

Iran executes man convicted of spying for Israel, says judiciary

REUTERS

Iran is saying it has executed an Israeli Mossad spy in the country's southeast. The spy was linked to foreign intelligence services, including Mossad, and charged with involvement in releasing classified information. The judiciary body executed the person in a prison in Zahedan, the capital of Sistan and Baluchistan. AP

VATICAN

Cardinal sentenced to five-and-half years in historic Vatican fraud trial

REUTERS

A Vatican court sentenced a once powerful Italian cardinal to five years and six months in jail for financial crimes at the end of a historic trial. Angelo Becciu, 75, a former adviser to Pope Francis who was once considered a papal contender himself, was the most senior clergyman to face a Vatican criminal court. AFP

Israel and Qatar explore revival of deal for hostages

Reuters

Israeli and Qatari officials were set to meet in Norway on Saturday in an effort to revive talks about the release of hostages held in Gaza in return for a ceasefire and the freeing of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on Saturday.

Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani was due to meet David Barnea, director of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, in Oslo, the report added, citing people familiar with the matter. Mr. Barnea is also likely to meet with Egyptian officials, the *Journal* reported.

Significant obstacles impede a resumption of negotiations on a new hostage deal including disagreements over the possible terms within Hamas citing people familiar with the talks.

Communications blackout, hunger add to Gaza's woes

With Internet, telephone lines going down on Thursday and not restored till Saturday morning, the blackout is the longest in the two-month old war; hunger situation turning 'catastrophic': WFP

Associated Press
RAFAH

A prolonged communications blackout that severed telephone and Internet connections compounded the misery on Saturday in the besieged Gaza Strip, where a United Nations agency said hunger levels had spiralled in recent days.

Internet and telephone lines went down on Thursday evening and were still inaccessible on Saturday morning, according to Internet access advocacy group NetBlocks.org, hampering aid deliveries and rescue efforts as Israel's war against Hamas stretched into the 11th week.

The blackout is the longest in the over-two-month war, said Alp Toker, the group's director. The United Nations' humanitarian affairs department said communications with Gaza were "severely disrupted" due to damage to telecommunications lines in the south.

Topsy turvy: A damaged car sits on rubble following an Israeli raid at Kamal Adwan hospital in the northern Gaza on Saturday. REUTERS

"I cannot stress enough the dire consequences of this communications blackout on our ability to provide essential humanitarian aid," Fikr Shalltoot, director of the Medical Aid for Palestinians group in Gaza, said. "We cannot communicate with our partners to deliver vital health services. We are unable to even check in with our colleagues, most of whom have been displaced from their homes and lost loved ones."

Residents in northern Gaza meanwhile reported heavy bombing and the sounds of gunbattles overnight and into Saturday in devastated Gaza City and the nearby urban refugee camp of Jabaliya.

With only a trickle of aid able to enter Gaza and distribution disrupted by fighting, the UN's World Food Program reported a surge from 38% to 56% in the number of households experiencing severe levels of hunger in the space of under two weeks. In the north, where aid has been unable to enter, "households ... are expected to face a catastrophic situation," the WFP said.

Israel says it mistakenly killed three Gaza hostages

Agence France-Presse
TEL AVIV

Israel said its troops had killed three Gaza hostages after mistaking them for a threat, with the armed forces expressing "deep remorse" over a "tragic incident" that sparked protests in Tel Aviv. The Army also said the three had carried white flags and cried for help in Hebrew.

The Israeli military said Yotam Haim, Alon Shamriz and Samer El-Talalqa were shot during operations in a neighbourhood of Gaza City.

White flag

An Army official said the hostages were all "without shirts" and had "a stick with a white cloth on it", but a soldier felt threatened and opened fire.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described the death of the three hostages as an "unbearable tragedy", while the White House called the incident a "tragic mistake".

The body of of one of the three hostages killed by the Israeli military being laid to rest in Hura village in southern Israel. REUTERS

As news of the incident spread, hundreds of people gathered at Israel's Ministry of Defence in the city of Tel Aviv in protest.

Protests in Tel Aviv

The demonstrators waved Israeli flags and brandished placards with the faces of some of the 129 people still held in Gaza.

"Every day, a hostage dies," read one of the placards.

In Tel Aviv, relatives of other hostages called on the government to reach an accord to allow more people to be freed.

In November, a short-lived truce agreement mediated by Qatar, Egypt and the United States saw more than 100 hostages freed in exchange for Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

Taiwan to receive $300 million worth equipment from U.S.

Reuters
WASHINGTON

The U.S. State Department has approved a $300 million sale of equipment to help maintain Taiwan's tactical information systems, the Pentagon said on Friday, the latest U.S. assistance for the island's defences.

The U.S. is bound by law to provide Chinese-claimed Taiwan with the means to defend itself and arms sales are a frequent source of tension between Washington and Beijing.

The Pentagon's Defence Security Cooperation Agency said the sale was for follow-on life cycle support to maintain Taiwan's Command, Control, Communications, and Computers, or C4, capabilities. The support would improve Taiwan's capability to "meet current and future threats by enhancing operational readiness" and maintain existing C4 capabilities that provide secure flow of tactical information, it added.

"The Chinese communists frequent military operations around Taiwan presents a serious threat to us," the Taiwan's Defence Ministry said, adding it expected the sale to "take effect" in one month and expressed its thanks to the U.S.. The U.S. Congress will be notified and the sale is likely to go ahead.

Restoring French glory

The new golden rooster containing relics is lifted by crane to be installed atop the spire of Notre Dame cathedral as part of its reconstruction, in central Paris on Saturday. The golden rooster, designed by architect Philippe Villeneuve, contains relics saved from the fire that struck the monument on April 15, 2019, and a document with the names of those working on its reconstruction. AFP

Pakistan's election body issues poll schedule on SC order

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

The schedule for February 8 polls was announced after SC quashed an order by Lahore High Court

The schedule for Pakistan's general elections on February 8 has been issued, hours after the Supreme Court quashed a lower court's decision which could have delayed the much-awaited polls.

The election schedule was issued on Friday night by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), within hours after the Supreme Court quashed a decision by the Lahore High Court (LHC) to suspend the appointment of officials from the bureaucracy to oversee the elections in defiance of the apex court's orders.

The LHC's verdict was issued on a petition filed by jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) – the same party that had called for timely polls in a plea filed in the Supreme Court.

The nominations can be filed from December 20-22. The National Assembly (NA) would consist of 336 seats, including 266 general seats, 60 seats reserved for women, and 10 for non-Muslims.

Myanmar ethnic minority fighters seize town from military

Agence France-Presse
BANGKOK

The actions come days after China said it had mediated a temporary ceasefire between the groups

Ethnic minority fighters battling Myanmar's junta said on Saturday they seized a trading hub in Shan state, days after China said it had mediated a temporary ceasefire.

Clashes have raged across Myanmar's northern Shan state since the Arakan Army (AA), the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) launched a joint offensive late October.

The three allied groups – known as the Three Brotherhood Alliance – say they have captured military positions and border hubs vital for trade with China, posing what analysts say is the biggest military challenge to the junta since it seized power in 2021.

On Thursday, Beijing announced a temporary ceasefire between the alliance and the Myanmar military. There have been peaceful spells in MNDAA-held areas, but clashes have continued in areas controlled by the TNLA and the AA.

The TNLA had said they captured Namhsan on Friday.

More losses

According to TNLA's Tar Bhone Kyaw, the Myanmar Army also lost the 105-Mile Trade Zone, a major trading conduit on the border with China in Muse township, Shan state.

In total, the three-group alliance says they have seized 422 bases and seven towns from Myanmar's army since October 27.

Kuwait Emir, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al Sabah, dead

Associated Press
DUBAI

Kuwait's ruling emir, the 86-year-old Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, died on Saturday after a three-year, low-key reign focused on trying to resolve the tiny, oil-rich nation's internal political disputes.

Authorities gave no cause of death.

Kuwait's deputy ruler and his half-brother, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber, now 83, is believed to be the world's oldest crown prince. He is in line to take over as Kuwait's ruler and represents one of the Gulf Arab countries' last octogenarian leaders.

Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad

In November, Sheikh Nawaf was rushed to a hospital for an unspecified illness. In the time since, Kuwait had been waiting for news about his health. State-run news previously reported that he travelled to the U.S. for unspecified medical checks in 2021.

Sheikh Nawaf was sworn in as Emir in 2020 amid the coronavirus pandemic, following the death of his predecessor, the late Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Tainted legacy

Sheikh Nawaf previously served as Kuwait's Interior and Defence Minister. His political fortunes were never certain despite being part of the ruling Al Sabah family. As Defence Minister, Sheikh Nawaf oversaw the rapid collapse of his forces during Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's invasion of his country in August 1990. He faced widespread criticism for his decisions during the war.

A letter sent to the country's ruler at the time alleged Sheikh Nawaf ordered tank crews not to fire on the approaching Iraqi forces. The reasoning behind the alleged order remains unclear. Iraq's battle-hardened forces, after years at war with Iran, easily overwhelmed the country. A U.S.-led, multinational force later expelled the Iraqis from Kuwait. The Al Sabah never published the findings of its investigations into the government's actions around the invasion.

Domestic issues

During his term as Emir, he had been focused on domestic issues as the nation struggled through political disputes – including the overhaul of Kuwait's welfare system – which prevented the sheikhdom from taking on debt. That has left it with little in its coffers to pay bloated public sector salaries, despite generating immense wealth from its oil reserves.

In 2021, Sheikh Nawaf issued a long-awaited amnesty decree, pardoning and reducing the sentences of nearly three dozen Kuwaiti dissidents in a move aimed at defusing a major government stand-off.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak offered his condolences.

Additional organic molecules found in Enceladus's plume

The Hindu Bureau

Molecules including methanol, ethane, and oxygen are present in gaseous plumes emitted from Saturn's moon Enceladus, a re-analysis of data from the Cassini mission suggests. The findings are published in *Nature Astronomy*.

The Cassini spacecraft first discovered large plumes of material escaping into space from Enceladus's southern hemisphere in 2005. These plumes appear to be coming from a subsurface ocean through fissures in the moon's icy surface. Analyses of data from Cassini's Ion and Neutral Mass Spectrometer (INMS) collected during flybys in 2011 and 2012 determined the presence of water, carbon dioxide, methane, ammonia, and molecular hydrogen in the samples.

Jonah Peter from the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California and others re-examined data processed by the INMS instrument team and compared it to a large library of known mass spectra. Using a statistical analysis technique, which analysed billions of potential compositions of the plume material, they identified that the most likely composition of the plumes is the five already identified molecules along with newly identified hydrocarbons hydrogen cyanide (HCN), acetylene (C_2H_2), propylene (C_3H_6), and ethane (C_2H_6), and traces of an alcohol (methanol) and molecular oxygen. "Our results are agnostic to the presence of hydrogen, which requires analysis of additional INMS data," they note.

A finding of the work is the find the definite presence of nitrogen at Enceladus in the form of HCN. "Previous studies have been unable to resolve the HCN abundance due to confounding signals from fragmentation products at mass 28," they write.

The authors suggest that this compositionally diverse chemical reservoir under the surface of Enceladus may be consistent with a habitable environment and could potentially support microbial communities. "Together with plausible mineralogical catalysts and redox gradients derived from surface radiolysis, these compounds could potentially support extant microbial communities or drive complex organic synthesis leading to the origin of life," the authors write.

The ability of these compounds to support life on Enceladus, however, depends largely on how diluted they may be in the moon's subsurface ocean, the authors note.

CT scans associated with increased risk of blood cancers

The results strengthen the body of evidence of increased cancer risk at low radiation doses and highlight the need for continued justification of paediatric CT examinations and optimisation of doses

K. S. Parthasarathy

Ever since physicians started using computed tomography (CT) for medical imaging, its use grew rapidly. The benefits of CT imaging in clinically needed cases are well known. However, its potential for increased cancer risks and relatively high cumulative doses from multiple scans have raised concerns among the medical and scientific community. Sensitive sections such as children, adolescents and young adults are vulnerable and technologists must use appropriate protocols for them while they undergo CT scans.

Radiation doses at moderate (over 100 mGy) to high (over 1 Gy) values are known to cause haematological malignancies (blood cancers) in both children and adults and other cancers. However, there has been uncertainty about risk at low doses (less than 100 mGy) that are typically associated with diagnostic CT examinations. A recent study (*Nature Medicine*, 9 November 2023) suggests that even low doses of radiation have a small probability of causing blood cancer.

"Our results strengthen the body of evidence of increased cancer risk at low radiation doses and highlight the need for continued justification of paediatric CT examinations and optimisation of doses," the researchers asserted. "This is especially concerning given that CT scanning is the largest contributor to the world's average annual effective dose per person from medical radiation sources, in both children and adults."

Researchers from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and its partners followed up a multinational cohort of 9,48,174 individuals who underwent CT examinations before age 22 years in 276 hospitals from nine European countries.

The final study covered about 1.3 million CT scans in nearly 9,00,000 patients. They estimated the radiation doses to the active bone marrow of each subject based on the body part scanned, patient characteristics, time period and inferred CT technical parameters. Fifty-one percent of the cases were younger than 20 years at diagnosis, whereas 88.5% were younger than 30 years.

Researchers followed up the group for at least two years following their first CT scan. They identified 790 haematological malignancies including 578 cases of lymphoid malignancies and 203 cases of myeloid malignancies and acute leukaemia (AL). The mean follow-up period was 7.8 years. The researchers found a clear association between cumulative dose and risk of all haematological malignancies, with an excess relative risk of 1.96 per 100 mGy. Gray (Gy) is a unit of absorbed dose of radiation.

The energy absorbed in one Gy of radiation is one Joule per kg of tissue. Since Gy is a large unit, milli (one-thousandth) or micro (one-millionth) of a Gy are commonly used. Researchers estimated that "for every 10,000 children examined today (mean dose 8 mGy), one-two persons are expected to develop a haematological malignancy attributable to radiation exposure in the subsequent 12 years."

Even low dose radiation can cause cancer

Children, adolescents and young adults are vulnerable to blood cancer caused by low dose radiation

- Radiation doses at moderate (over 100 mGy) to high (over 1 Gy) values are known to cause blood cancers in both children and adults
- A recent study suggests that even low doses (less than 100 mGy) of radiation have a small probability to cause blood cancer
- Nearly 9.5 lakh individuals who underwent CT examinations before age 22 years in 276 hospitals in nine European countries were followed up
- 51% of the cases were younger than 20 years at diagnosis, whereas 88.5% were younger than 30 years
- A clear association was found between cumulative dose and risk of blood cancer

Safety measures: Denying to undergo CT scans needed for disease diagnosis is also harmful

- For every 10,000 children undergoing CT examination, one-two children are expected to develop blood cancer in about 12 years
- The study highlights the need for continued justification of paediatric CT examinations and optimisation of doses

Dose-effect studies

Many earlier studies that estimated the blood cancer risk associated with CT scan radiation in children and young adults have low statistical power, inadequacies in individual dosimetry and potential bias from confounding by indication.

In the present study, the distribution of dose to the active bone marrow (referred to as ABM dose) was such that most individuals received low doses. The mean and median cumulative ABM dose at the end of the follow-up was 15.6 mGy and 10.7 mGy, respectively, in the cohort and 20 mGy and 13.0 mGy among the overall cases.

Notable features

First, it is a large-scale multi-centre study designed to estimate directly the risk of blood cancers associated with ionising radiation exposure from CT examinations during childhood and young adulthood; it aims to address criticisms of previous studies related to dosimetry, statistical power and potential biases. Second, the size of the study (nearly one million patients) has considerably increased the statistical power compared with previous national studies. The results showed a clear dose-response between cumulative ABM dose and risk of haematological malignancies, both lymphoid and myeloid, with increased risk at doses as low as 10-15 mGy.

It is a curtain down on the dose-effect controversy; low dose ionising radiation causes a finite risk not greater than what was estimated thus far from various studies. This small risk is acceptable given clinical benefits to the patient. Patients must realise that denying to undergo CT scans needed to diagnose disease is also harmful. The study highlights the need for diligently following the basic principles of radiation protection.

(K.S. Parthasarathy was formerly Secretary of the Atomic Energy Regulatory *Board)*

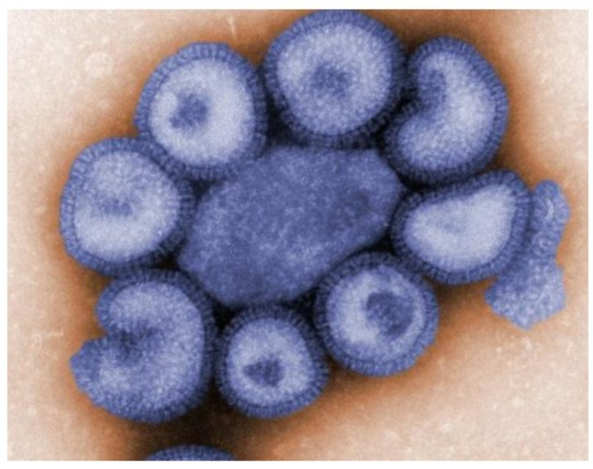
Significance of an influenza A (H1N2)v case in the U.K.

Bani Jolly
Vinod Scaria

On 27 November 2023, the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) reported the first known human case of influenza A (H1N2)v in the UK, a variant of the influenza virus previously not known to cause infections in humans. Following detection, public health agencies in the UK are now working rapidly towards characterising the pathogen and assessing the risk it may present to human health.

Several subtypes of the influenza virus are assigned according to combinations of mutations in the proteins on the surface of the virus - hemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N). The former binds to sialic acid receptors in the host. New influenza viruses can emerge through a process called reassortment where the co-infecting viruses could swap genomic fragments. Influenza A H1N2 is a subtype of influenza that is endemic in pigs and is rarely reported in humans. Swine influenza viruses normally do not infect humans, however, in rare cases, sporadic infections can occur especially with close contact with animals carrying the virus. In such occurrences, the infecting influenza strain is known as a "variant virus" denoted by adding "v" after the subtype.

The case of influenza A (H1N2)v was detected as part of the comprehensive national influenza surveillance in the UK led by UKHSA. The patient, a 75-year-old individual, who has now fully recovered, presented with mild respiratory and flu-like symptoms. Genome sequencing revealed that the virus belonged to a distinct clade 1B.1.1 of influenza viruses. While distinct from recent human cases of A(H1N2), its genetic makeup showed similarity to swine influenza viruses found in the UK and no other mutations of concern have been detected in this variant. Although the patient resides in an area in proximity to pig farms, no direct contact with animals could be established. Instances of human-to-human transmission of the virus have also not yet been detected, however, the detection of the virus in a case with no contact with animals could possibly mean that a limited and undetected human-to-human transmission may have occurred. "But there is no definitive evidence," says the WHO.



The genetic makeup of A (H1N2)v shows similarity to swine influenza viruses found in the U.K. CDC/DR. F.A. MURPHY

Sporadic human infections with A(H1N2)v have been detected previously. Since 2005, almost 50 cases of human A(H1N2)v infections have been reported from across the world, however, this is the first time that a case has been reported from the UK. Recently, in August 2023, a human infection was reported in the United States of America linked to an agricultural fair. Cases have also been reported in Austria, Denmark, France, Netherlands, Brazil, Canada, China and Australia. Infections with H1N2 variant viruses generally are similar in symptoms and severity to seasonal influenza viruses and there is limited evidence of human-to-human transmission. "Current evidence suggests that these swine-origin influenza viruses have limited ability for sustained transmission among humans," the WHO says.

According to the UKHSA, the variant influenza virus presents a low risk to the general public. However, people with direct regular exposure to pigs may be at a higher risk of acquiring this virus. Influenza viruses have the potential to spill over into human populations and cause severe illnesses although the variant virus detected in the U.K. does not show any characteristics suggestive of pandemic potential. As public health authorities in the U.K. continue to follow up on the case, it is important to underscore comprehensive surveillance of pathogens, particularly rapidly evolving respiratory viruses like influenza and ability to rapidly characterise viral variants using genome sequencing forms the cornerstone of public health action and preparedness and our ability to mitigate the risk of a global outbreak.

(Bani Jolly is a senior scientist at Karkinos Healthcare and Vinod Scaria is a senior consultant at Vishwanath Cancer Care Foundation)

SNAPSHOTS

Study reveals history of the Coast Salish 'woolly dogs'

DNA analysis of a 19th-century dog, paired with traditional knowledge acquired through interviews, have provided new insights into the decline of Coast Salish "woolly dogs" - an extinct Indigenous dog once bred for its unique woolly coat. Given the ubiquity of European ancestry present in many dog breeds at the time, the findings of the study suggest that the Coast Salish peoples carefully and successfully maintained the genetic integrity of the woolly dog's genetic lineage for a substantial period.

Mapping illegal pangolin poaching from Africa to Asia

Based on genomic analyses, researchers reveal illegal pangolin trafficking routes from origins in Africa to markets in Asia. The approach offers new opportunities to monitor pangolin poaching in near real-time, allowing for targeted and more effective anti-trafficking measures. Pangolins are in high demand in Asia because their scales are believed, without scientific support, to have medicinal properties in traditional medicines, particularly in China. The white-bellied pangolin is the world's most trafficked mammal.

Solar-powered clothes provide heating and cooling

Combining a flexible solar cell with an electro caloric device, researchers have created solar-powered clothing that allows the body to adapt dynamically to changes in ambient temperature, thus allowing the new device to guarantee the safety and comfort of the human body. Active thermo regulatory systems used allow for rapid cooling or warming but often have large power demands, limiting their use in more conventional clothing types.

Question Corner

Daydreaming

What happens in the brain while daydreaming?

During quiet waking, brain activity in mice suggests the animals are daydreaming about a recent image (*Nature*). The researchers tracked the activity of neurons in the visual cortex of the brains of mice while the animals remained in a quiet waking state. They found that occasionally these neurons fired in a pattern similar to one that occurred when a mouse looked at an actual image, suggesting that the mouse was thinking – or daydreaming – about the image. Moreover, the patterns of activity during a mouse's first few daydreams of the day predicted how the brain's response to the image would change over time. The research provides tantalizing, if preliminary, evidence that daydreams can shape the brain's future response to what it sees. This causal relationship needs to be confirmed in further research, the team cautioned, but the results offer an intriguing clue that daydreams during quiet waking may play a role in brain plasticity – the brain's ability to remodel itself in response to new experiences.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Why has Hungary blocked EU aid to Ukraine?

What is the significance of this move after it allowed EU membership talks to begin for the war-torn country?

G. Sampath

The story so far:

At a meeting this week, leaders of the European Union (EU) agreed to start negotiations for Ukraine's accession to the EU. Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who had vowed to oppose this move, allowed the decision to go through. But he blocked the EU's €50 billion aid package for Ukraine.

What is Hungary's stance on aid to Ukraine?

Prime Minister Orban, a rightwing leader, is a close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin. In April 2022, after his re-election, he named Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky as one of the "opponents" he had to overcome. He believes that the regime in Ukraine is beset by corruption, and that the country is not yet ready for EU membership. He believes Ukraine should first serve as a strategic partner of the EU for some time before membership talks can begin.

He has been opposed to the financial package on the grounds that a non-EU member should not be getting such huge funds at a time when Hungary, an EU member-state, has been denied funds that were specifically allocated for it.

What is the backdrop of the latest move?

The EU had frozen substantial funds earmarked for Hungary, on the grounds that Hungary had violated EU norms on law and order and judicial independence. Analysts believe Hungary has sought to use its veto power on Ukraine's long-term funding as well as formal membership talks as a bargaining chip to get EU to unfreeze these funds. In fact, a day before the summit meeting, the EU released €10 billion of frozen funds to Hungary – a move that was widely seen as a capitulation to Mr. Orban's blackmail. The European Commission, however, has maintained that the timing was a mere coincidence and the funds were released in response to Hungary meeting EU's demands on judicial reforms.

The European Union aid package is important to Ukraine because President Zelensky is extremely worried about war fatigue eroding support for Ukraine's resistance to Russia, especially in the U.S.

In what is seen by many as a quid pro quo, during the meeting of the 27 EU leaders, Mr. Orban, at the urging of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, left the room when it was time to raise objections, allowing the remaining 26 to seal the decision on starting official talks on Ukraine's EU accession.

Does this mean Ukraine's EU membership is a done deal?

Not really. Accession to the EU is a long-drawn process, where a country has to fulfil several governance-related and other requirements. If we exclude the six founding members, on an average, it took about nine years for each of the other 21 members to gain membership. Mr. Orban has said that Hungary will have plenty of opportunities to disrupt or even derail Ukraine's membership process.

For Ukraine's membership to go through, it will have to be approved by the Parliaments of all the EU nations, including Hungary's. Mr. Orban seems to have calculated that he doesn't stand to lose much by letting the accession talks begin so long as he can use the leverage afforded by his veto power to extract concessions for Hungary from the EU.

How will the EU now provide aid to Ukraine?

If Mr. Orban does not relent, then the EU could find a way around by creating a trust comprising the other 26 members. This would be a more tedious process and could cause delays in reaching the funds to a desperate Ukraine. Mr. Putin, however, wouldn't mind the delay as Russian forces continue to strengthen their positions at the frontline.

Why is the EU aid package important for Ukraine?

President Zelensky is extremely worried about war fatigue eroding support for Ukraine's resistance to Russia, especially in the U.S. Reports indicate that a substantial number of Republican lawmakers – and their followers – are losing patience with the lack of military successes, and are concerned about funnelling American tax payer dollars into a conflict that is increasingly looking like a war their side cannot win. The Republicans want President Joe Biden to tighten immigration policy in exchange for their support on approving a further $61 billion of aid to Ukraine.

Presidential elections are due next year, and a victory for Donald Trump and his 'America First' foreign policy could bring an end to the generous U.S. aid for the Ukrainian war effort. This leaves a relatively small window for Mr. Zelensky to not only obtain whatever financial aid he can but also secure binding political support –such as membership of the EU, NATO, and so on – which would more readily translate into financial and military aid.

How will Article 370 verdict impact federalism?

What are the key aspects of the judgment and how will it affect Centre-State relations? What has the Supreme Court ruled about the President's role during President's rule? What did it say about restoring statehood to Jammu & Kashmir?

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

On December 11, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld the power of the President to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution, which in August 2019 led to the reorganisation of the State of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) into two Union Territories and denuded it of its special privileges. It reasoned that Article 370 was only a 'temporary provision' to ease the accession of the then princely State to the Union at a time of internal strife and war.

What did the lead judgment say?

In the lead judgment, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, writing for himself, Justices B.R. Gavai and Surya Kant, pointed out that J&K had divested itself of "any element of sovereignty" after the execution of the Instrument of Accession to the Union in October 1947. Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Sanjiv Khanna concurred in their opinions. Constitutional experts say the observations in the verdict will have a lasting impact on federalism, which is recognised as a basic feature of our Constitution.

What did the petitioners argue?

The petitioners had argued that the President while exercising powers under Article 356 of the Constitution cannot take actions with 'irreversible' consequences in a State during President's rule. Significant legislative alterations were made to the State during President's rule such as the repeal of its special status, the separation of Ladakh, and its conversion into a Union Territory – which meant that the Union government could unilaterally bring about such enduring changes without having to solicit the consent of the State legislature.

The Supreme Court said the views of the State legislature regarding the proposed re-organisation of a State are not binding on Parliament

Dismissing such contentions, the Court reasoned that challenging the exercise of the President's power on the ground of irreversibility would open the way for challenging everyday administrative actions which would in effect put the administration in the State at a standstill. It, however, underscored that such exercise of power must have a reasonable nexus to the object of the Presidential Proclamation. It added that the onus was on the person challenging the actions of the President during an emergency to prima facie establish they were a "mala fide or extraneous exercise of power". Reliance was also placed on the Supreme Court's ruling in *S. R. Bommai versus Union of India* (1994) which defined the ambit of powers that can be exercised during President's rule.

Set in stone: Jammu and Kashmir Rashtriya Bajrang Dal members celebrate the Supreme Court's verdict on Article 370, in Jammu on December 11. ANI

Can a State be turned into a Union Territory?

The Court observed that carving out the Union Territory of Ladakh out of J&K was permissible under Article 3 of the Constitution and accordingly upheld the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. However, owing to the assurance given by the Union government that J&K's statehood would be restored soon, the court did not go into the issue of whether the conversion of J&K into a Union Territory was valid. Importantly, the court pointed out that the views of the State legislature regarding the proposed reorganisation of the State are recommendatory and not binding on Parliament.

The Chief Justice, however, cautioned that "the necessary effect of converting a State to Union Territories which is that autonomy would be diminished, the historical context for the creation of federating units, and its impact on the principles of federalism and representative democracy" must be borne in mind. Reiterating similar concerns, Justice Sanjiv Khanna stated that the conversion of a State into a Union Territory has "grave consequences" and denies the citizens of the State an elected government, and impinges on federalism. Thus, such a conversion has to be justified by giving very strong and cogent grounds.

What about the role of the State?

The Court ruled that the President while exercising powers under Article 370(3) of the Constitution can 'unilaterally' notify that Article 370 ceases to exist. It further said that there was no requirement for the President to secure the concurrence of the State government in this regard as mandated by the provisos to Article 370(1)(d).

"The principle of consultation and collaboration underlying the provisos to Article 370(1)(d) would not be applicable where the effect of the provision is the same as Article 370(3). Since the effect of applying all the provisions of the Constitution to Jammu and Kashmir through the exercise of power under Article 370(1)(d) is the same as issuing a notification under Article 370(3) that Article 370 ceases to exist, the principle of consultation and collaboration are not required to be followed," the Chief Justice reasoned. It was also pointed out that such collaboration between the President and the State government would have been necessary if provisions of the Indian Constitution were to be applied to the State in a manner that would require amendments to the State Constitution. However, in this case, the President through Presidential Order [C.O.272] ensured a total application of the Indian Constitution to the State to the effect that the State's Constitution became inoperative.

What did the Court specify about the President's powers?

The petitioners had pointed out that the proviso to clause 3 of Article 370 makes it clear that the presidential power to abrogate Article 370 was contingent on the recommendation of the J&K Constituent Assembly. However, the Court ruled that even after the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly on January 26, 1957, the President's power to abrogate the provision by exercising powers under Article 370(3) subsists and could be exercised "unilaterally". The Chief Justice asserted that holding the power under Article 370(3) cannot be exercised after the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly would lead to "freezing of the integration" contrary to the purpose of introducing the provision. Concurring with this view, Justice Kaul emphasised that the purpose of Article 370 was to slowly bring J&K on par with the other States of India and thus the "requirement of recommendation of [the] J&K Constituent Assembly cannot be read in a manner making the larger intention redundant".

What about 'asymmetric federalism' ?

The Court pointed out that unlike the Constitution of India, "there is a clear absence" in J&K's Constitution of a reference to sovereignty. Article 370 was held to be merely a "feature of asymmetric federalism" similar to other provisions in the Constitution such as Articles 371A to 371J – examples of special arrangements for different States. "If the position that Jammu and Kashmir has sovereignty by virtue of Article 370 were to be accepted, it would follow that other States which had special arrangements with the Union also possessed sovereignty. This is clearly not the case," the Chief Justice said. He added that although different States might enjoy varying degrees of autonomy, the difference, however, remains one of degree and not of kind in a federal set-up.

Is the world closer to phasing out fossil fuel?

What did the climate conference agree to in the Dubai Consensus? What are the challenges for the world to 'transition' away from fossil fuels and achieve net zero by 2050? What are the alternatives to coal and oil?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

The 28th edition of the Conference of Parties (COP) concluded in Dubai this week with 198 signatory countries agreeing that the world must "transition" away from fossil fuels in a "just, orderly and equitable manner" to achieve net zero by 2050.

Does the wording of the agreement suggest that the end of fossil fuels is near?

Far from it. The Dubai Consensus, as this agreement is called, is significant only because this is the first time since 1995, when the first ever COP was held in Berlin, that there is a formal acknowledgement that emissions from fossil fuels are the main culprit driving global warming. So far, all agreements have only spoken of the need to stem "greenhouse gas emissions." This is despite it being common knowledge that three-fourth of such emissions and 90% of carbon dioxide are the result of burning coal, oil and gas. It was only in the 26th edition of the COP, in Glasgow in 2021, that countries agreed to tackle coal – the fossil fuel with the biggest global-warming footprint – by agreeing to "phase down" its use. It's important to keep in mind here that "phase down" and "phase out" have no meaning on their own because they do not refer to any specific year by which the use of these fuels must terminate. Large, developing countries like India and China, have protested against the singling out of coal among fossil fuels, on the grounds that they need them for lifting their masses out of poverty and providing energy security. India, while rich in coal reserves, is still an importer of the product and has limited oil and gas reserves. China is rich in both coal and gas. The United States, that derives about a fifth of its energy from coal, has usually been supportive of calls to phase out coal but being heavily dependent on oil and gas reserves, has never voiced any call to action to eliminate the latter two. However, now that all fossil fuels have been included in the Dubai Consensus, it brings parity among fuels and acknowledgement that they all need to be done away with for the world to have a chance at preventing global, average temperatures from rising 1.5 degree Celsius over pre-industrial levels. But because there are no timelines yet, fossil fuels are going to be the mainstay of economies everywhere in the years to come.

There are no timelines yet, only consensus that all fossil fuels need to be done away with to prevent global temperatures from rising further

Ticking clock: Climate activists protest against fossil fuels during COP-28 in Dubai, UAE on December 8. REUTERS

Can fossil fuels be immediately replaced?

Nearly two centuries of industrialisation has meant that there is a well-oiled infrastructure system to extract, process and distribute coal, oil and gas to all kinds of power plants and convert them to electricity and combustible products, ranging from petrol and diesel to plastic. Then there is the infrastructure – transmission grids and pipelines – to channel these stores of energy to houses and vehicles. Unfortunately, power from natural sources of power such as solar and wind are not as easily available, on demand, as fossil fuel: the sun because of its unavailability at night and wind due to the temperamental nature of the ocean and atmosphere. The infrastructure to store all of the energy produced this way is grossly inadequate. India's National Electricity Plan, 2022-27, plans to add nearly 87,000 MW in this period in the form of fresh coal-fired capacity: 27,000 MW via under-construction power plants and 60,000 MW from new plants.

Oil production in the U.S. hit record levels this year. Since 2010, the number of oil barrels per day has tripled and gas production has risen two and half times in the country. At COP deliberations this year, one of the trickiest conundrums was the large presence of oil and gas manufacturers and of course, the hosting of a climate summit in a petro-state. The Dubai Consensus agreement stating that a transition from fossil fuel, while necessary, suggests that "transition fuels" could play a role in "facilitating the energy transition while ensuring energy security." Though there is no definition of what these fuels are, natural gas has been touted as one of the contenders. Even though natural gas production leads to methane emissions, estimates by the International Energy Agency proffer that in balance, switching from coal-to-gas reduces emissions by 50% when producing electricity and by 33% when providing heat. This of course invites criticism that such a framing of natural gas advantages countries which have natural production and distribution capabilities for this gas.

What does the Dubai Consensus say about methane?

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas and has several times more heat-trapping capabilities compared to carbon dioxide. It is a key component of natural gas and responsible for about a third of planetary warming just behind carbon dioxide. "Accelerating and substantially reducing non-carbon-dioxide emissions globally, including in particular methane emissions by 2030," is necessary for humanity to have a shot at keeping average temperatures from rising beyond 1.5 degree Celsius by the end of the century, the agreement notes. The Global Methane Pledge to cut methane emissions 30% of 2020 levels by 2030 was signed on by nearly 150 countries at the COP-27 summit in Egypt, last year. China and the U.S. have also agreed to address industrial methane emissions, that result from natural gas production.

India has resisted pressure to cut methane emissions on the grounds that most of its methane results from the agricultural sector. However, it has unveiled plans to make its energy production processes more efficient to reduce its release.

PROFILES

Junta down but not out

The Tatmadaw

Myanmar's military faces its most formidable challenge in six decades of dominance as opposition fighters and ethnic rebels consolidate in the country's hinterlands, but it still remains 'the most effective and best-armed fighting force' in the country

Srinivasan Ramani

In a world and time where absolute rule by a military junta in a country is considered an anachronism, the Tatmadaw, or the military in Myanmar, seeks to maintain such a regime after gaining absolute power through a coup in February 2021. But the backlash against the coup has arguably been the severest that the Tatmadaw has faced in six decades of dominance in Myanmar post independence.

The current iteration of the junta goes by the appellation State Administration Council (SAC), which organised the third major coup in the country's independent history to oust the elected civilian National League for Democracy (NLD)-led government. To tackle the agitations that followed the coup, the military reverted to its oft-used tactics of repression even as the NLD and other pro-democracy activists went on to form a National Unity Government (NUG) in exile.

This led to the creation of the People's Defense Forces (PDF) – militias across the country that took on the junta using guerilla warfare and inflicted losses in several villages in Myanmar's rural hinterland, even in places dominated by the majority Bamar ethnicity. Various ethnic armed actors, some of whom have been fighting the Burmese state for decades, also went on to break their prior ceasefire agreements with the Tatmadaw and entered into a loose alliance with the PDF and the NUG, expanding the skirmishes into a full-fledged civil war.

This alliance was enabled by political developments after the coup – members of the deposed NLD and other elected ethnic lawmakers formed a new political body called the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (or National Parliament in Burmese), which, along with other civil society actors and ethnic party representatives later formed the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC), a dialogue platform seeking to unite pro-democratic forces.

Ethnic armed groups such as the Karen (Karen National Union), Kachin (Kachin Independence Organization), Chin (Chin National Front) and Karenni (Karenni National Progressive Party) supported the NUG, fighting the army and helping forming anti-coup militias. They did so while rejecting an NUG proposal for a single 'Federal Army' under a unified NUG command.

The Shan-State based Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), representing the interests of the Palaung people; the Kokang-based Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA); and other northern groups in Shan State, besides the Rakhine State-based AA, used the post-coup situation to strengthen themselves without provoking the junta. These groups are also loosely allied with the United Wa State Army (UWSA), one of the largest ethnic armed forces, which has repudiated any ties with the NUG and retains its pre-coup relationship with the junta.

On October 27, 2023, however, these three groups – the MNDAA, the TNLA and the AA – launched coordinated attacks against military bases across northern Shan State. The attacks, termed 'Operation 1027' denoting the date of the operations, October 27, by the Three Brotherhood Alliance, as the three groups called their collective, led to serious setbacks for the junta's forces.

Stretched thin

This situation where the Tatmadaw has been stretched thin by the coordinated attacks from different armed groups, and to its alarm, even in its Bamar strongholds, has led to some analysts excitedly suggesting that the military has finally received an existential threat to its dominance. But other seasoned observers of Myanmar have taken a cautionary stance. One such observer, veteran journalist Bertil Lintner, argues that the Myanmar army remains the "most effective and best-armed fighting force in the country".

A UN report in May 2023 said arms worth $1 billion were used by the military against the people of Myanmar with the bulk of them (more than 90%) from entities from three countries (Russia 41%; China 27%; and Singapore 25%). Supplies from India amounted to $51 million. The war

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

crimes-committing junta has used fighter planes and artillery to bomb its own rural people using scorched-earth methods to deter the rebels.

The PDFs, meanwhile, were using locally sourced arms and Mr. Lintner also argues that there was significant lack of cohesion among the ethnic armies.

The Tatmadaw's recent history can be traced to the formation of the Burma Independence Army (BIA) that was founded in 1941 by a group of activists along with Japanese help to take on the British. Led by Aung San, the father of Aung San Suu Kyi, the BIA initially fought in the Second World War against the British alongside the Japanese and renamed itself as the Burma Defence Army which later on joined the Allied forces against Japanese occupation by 1945.

After substantive reorganisation in a period marked with conflict with ethnic insurgent groups, the military led by General Ne Win led a coup against the civilian government (then led by U Nu) in 1962 to form a unitary state led by the military and that espoused a "Burmese socialist" regime based on dirigiste principles. The unitary state allowed for only a single party that was dominated by the military and this ruled the country for 26 years, pursuing policies of international isolation, autarky and rule by dictatorial fiat.

With Myanmar's economy rapidly deteriorating, a massive civilian uprising occurred in 1988 against the military rule. It was put down with force and by September 1988, martial law was declared. The military now ruled through a new regime called the State Law and Order Restoration Council that metamorphosed into the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) in 1997. The SPDC, with senior general Than Shwe at the helm, consisted of 11 senior military officials and effectively controlled the reins of government till 2011, when following a new Constitution in 2010, power was handed over in a sequence of steps to a hybrid civilian-military regime led by former general Thein Sein.

NLD victory

In 2015, the NLD won a supermajority of seats in the combined national Parliament and sought to restrict the military's overarching powers gradually but was rebuffed by military chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who went on to become chairman of the SAC, the new iteration of the Tatmadaw regime that captured absolute power in 2021.

While the international sanctions against its leaders, the wrath of the Myanmar diaspora due to its failures and excesses as the ruler of the country – which include the genocidal policies against minorities such as the Rohingya – and the support for the NUG have thrown up a strong challenge against the junta, its successful use of ethnic divisions, besides its resourcefulness, has ensured its hegemony despite a lack of popular support in Myanmar.

This is perhaps why observers like Mr. Lintner argue that Myanmar is in for a prolonged war of attrition unless there is an internal split within the Tatmadaw for the pro-democracy and pro-federal forces to exploit for a decisive military win. And even then, the task to build a post-junta, federal and democratic Myanmar will be enormously complicated.

THE GIST

- The Tatmadaw's recent history can be traced to the formation of the Burma Independence Army (BIA) that was founded in 1941 by a group of activists along with Japanese help to take on the British
- Led by Aung San, the BIA initially fought in the Second World War against the British alongside the Japanese and later renamed itself as the Burma Defence Army and joined the Allied forces against Japanese occupation
- The military led by General Ne Win led a coup against the civilian government in 1962 to form a unitary state, and since then it has retained its tight grip on the state and society

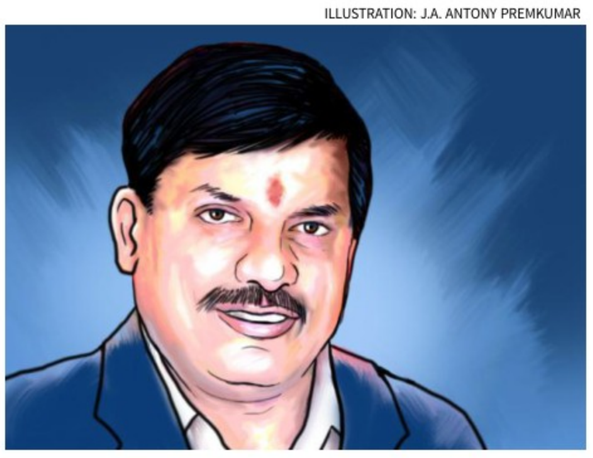
Surprise choice

Mohan Yadav

The new M.P. CM, who beat other stalwarts for the post, has come up the RSS and BJP ranks and has implemented many party programmes at ground level, winning him the leadership's trust

Mehul Malpani

ILLUSTRATION: J.A. ANTONY PREMKUMAR



In a recent interview with a TV channel, BJP national president J.P. Nadda said the party watches all its workers with keen interest. "His activities, his history, and his responses. And we have a huge data bank on this which we study from time to time," Mr. Nadda said.

Leaders and officials close to new Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav believe something like this must have worked in his favour as they describe him as a "silent worker with zero drumming".

Mr. Yadav himself told reporters on December 11, the day he was announced as Chief Minister, that he was surprised when his name popped up during the BJP's Legislature Party meet in Bhopal.

A three-time MLA from the Ujjain-Dakshin (South) constituency, Mr. Yadav emerged as a dark horse, leaving behind many stalwarts, including then Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, under whom he had served as Higher Education Minister since July 2020.

Mr. Yadav is also known as "*Mohan Pehalwan*" locally for his fondness for wrestling and has been serving as president of the Madhya Pradesh Wrestling Association for about 13 years. As the State's wrestling body chief, he is credited for promoting the Indian style wrestling – Dangal, or wrestling in soil instead of mat.

Having started his political career with student politics in 1982 in Ujjain, and later becoming a functionary of the ABVP in 1984, and eventually its national secretary in 1991-92, Mr. Yadav has come up the ranks of the RSS and the BJP. "He has been a loyal worker of the Sangh and the party. In 2003, former CM Uma Bharti had given him ticket from Ujjain's Badnagar Assembly constituency, but he returned it after facing protests by local BJP workers," a close aide of Mr. Yadav said, adding he patiently waited for 10 years before he was fielded from Ujjain-Dakshin in 2013 which he won.

People who have worked with him say he has over the years coordinated the visits of top RSS and BJP leaders to the Mahakal Temple in Ujjain, which brought him close to top functionaries of the Sangh such as Suresh Soni and Mr. Nadda.

He is a staunch RSS man, and his decisions have reflected the Sangh's ideology of promoting the Sanatan culture; whether it was the project to develop less-known places related to Lord Krishna in Madhya Pradesh or to include the Ramayana and the Mahabharata as optional subjects in higher education institutes in 2021.

His first decisions after becoming Chief Minister reflected his Hindutva ideology as they included a ban on the use of loudspeakers at religious places beyond permissible limits and a strict implementation of the ban on the sale of meat and eggs in the open. Bulldozers have razed down meat shops in cities such as Ujjain, Bhopal and Gwalior.

People who have observed his working in various departments, however, say he is a "very image-conscious person" who does not shy away from retracting his decisions to avoid some bad press.

No stranger to controversies, he was accused of "irregularities by converting a piece of agricultural land into residential" in the Ujjain Master Plan to benefit him and his family members. As clamour grew louder, Mr. Chouhan had to intervene and reverse the land conversion in July.

Some claim that more than Mr. Yadav's achievements, it was the caste equations that helped him.

By promoting Mr. Yadav, an OBC leader, as CM ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP would have not only looked at consolidating OBC communities in Madhya Pradesh, but also aims to influence the community's sizeable numbers in the neighbouring Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

With the Lok Sabha election just months away, Mr. Yadav faces the tasks of fulfilling the BJP's Assembly election promises as well as proving his worth to the BJP workers, for whom his Chief Ministership has come as a surprise.

Dedicated 'Sangh' volunteer

Bhajan Lal Sharma

A first-time MLA from Sanganer constituency in Jaipur, the BJP leader is the second Brahmin Chief Minister of Rajasthan in three decades

Ishita Mishra

ILLUSTRATION: SATHEESH VELLINEZHI

Bhajan Lal Sharma's elevation from the Bharatiya Janata Party's lowest ranks to the Chief Minister's post is seen as a morale booster for the low-key and faceless workers of the organisation who silently toil on the sidelines for the party.

Party workers point to an incident when they talk about Mr. Sharma's low-key activism. There was a transformer next to his house in Bharatpur. He made several rounds to the electricity department requesting it to be moved, but nothing happened for years. But within hours of the announcement that he would be the new Chief Minister of Rajasthan, the transformer was removed.

A first-time MLA from Sanganer constituency in Jaipur, Mr. Sharma, 56, is the second Brahmin Chief Minister of the State in the past three decades. He will have two deputies, Diya Kumari, a Rajput, and Prem Chand Bairwa, who hails from a Dalit community.

Mr. Sharma is the son of a farmer, Kishan Swaroop Sharma, at Atari village in Bharatpur. He was an average student in school, and chose to study arts for graduation and did his Bachelors of Education (B.Ed.) as his father wanted him to become a teacher. But destiny had some other plans for Mr. Sharma who could not clear the interview for a teacher's job. When the father's dream was shattered, he decided to follow his own, which was politics.

Mr. Sharma, who was associated with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the students' wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), is known to be a dedicated volunteer of the 'Sangh'.

In his '*Jeevan Parichay*' (Life Introduction), Mr. Sharma writes how in 1990, when the ABVP organised 'Kashmir Bachao Andolan', he as a student leader participated in the same and courted arrest in Udhampur. He went to jail again in 1992, during the Ram Janmabhoomi agitation during which Babri Masjid in Ayodhya was demolished. An FIR was filed against him in 2011 for Gopalgarh riots in which 10 Meo Muslims were killed during a dispute between Gujjar and Meos over a piece of land. The case is being investigated by the CBI.

Tryst with power

Mr. Sharma's first tryst with power was in 2000 when he won a village sarpanch (headman) election and served in the post for five years. His bio data says he also remained a Village Panchyat Samiti member between 2010 and 2015, but his friends say this post was held by his wife.

In his 35-year-long political career, Mr. Sharma served over half-a-dozen organisational posts in the BJP, including as the BJP Yuva Morcha leader, BJP district president of Bharatpur, and BJP State vice-president (2014-16) and State general secretary (2016-2023).

The first decision Mr. Sharma took after the oath ceremony was to form a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the recent cases of paper leaks in government recruitment examinations.

A single page bio-data of the new CM of Rajasthan has a reference to his long and 'loyal' association with the BJP, but even he was once a rebel. Unhappy with the saffron party for denying him ticket for the Assembly election from the Nadbai constituency under which his village falls, in 2003, he went into the poll fray as a candidate of the then newly formed party, Samajik Nyay Manch. Later he returned to the BJP fold.

A devotee of 'Giriraj' (Lord Krishna), Mr. Sharma has special love for cows and he was also looking to open a '*gau shala*' (cow shelter) very recently.

The script of his success was written during the 2021 West Bengal election where he was sent to handle campaigning. This is when he came closer to Amit Shah, who assured him that the party will take care of him. And the party did, as he was given ticket from Sanganer, a seat from where the BJP has never lost since 2003, instead of his preferred seat, Nadbai in Bharatpur. And now he is the Chief Minister.

INBRIEF

Adani acquires controlling stake in news agency IANS

Adani Enterprises said it had acquired a majority stake in news agency Indo-Asian News Service, or IANS, as the conglomerate tries to consolidate its media presence. The Adani group said upon acquiring a 50.5% stake for ₹5.10 lakh, it would assume full operational and management control of IANS. The news agency reported a revenue of more than ₹118.6 million in the 2022-23 financial year. Adani entered the media industry last year by acquiring Quintillion Business Media. REUTERS

Reliance General unveils global healthcare policy

Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd (RGICL) on Saturday said it had introduced a new policy to make global healthcare accessible to Indians. The policy, Reliance Health Global, provides comprehensive cover not only within the borders of India but across the world, RGICL said in a statement. The policy would cover expenditure for overseas treatment, including critical illnesses such as cancer and bypass surgery, the insurer added. PTI

Zydus gets U.S. FDA nod to sell anti-epileptic medication copy

Zydus Lifesciences said it had received approval from the U.S. health regulator to market a generic anti-epileptic medication. The company had received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to manufacture and market Lacosamide Tablets in multiple strengths, the drug firm said in a statement. Lacosamide is indicated in the treatment of partial-onset seizures.As per IQVIA data, Lacosamide Tablets had annual sales of $249 million in the U.S. PTI

Textile sector distress damps wages, sparks worker exodus

The Textiles Committee says in a study that declining exports, flat wages and increased imports adversely affected as many as 2.14 lakh employment opportunities in the sector between 2015 and 2020, which was the pre-COVID-19 period

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

The challenges over the past year at India's textile and apparel sector, the country's second-largest employer with almost 45 million direct jobs, have exposed the vulnerabilities of its workers and the fragile ecosystem they operate in.

The slowdown in the sector has kept wages flat, deprived workers of traditional incentives, pushing arguably lakhs of them into hunting for jobs elsewhere.

While the degree of the impact varies within the sector based on the unit's size, the kinds of textiles they deal with (handloom, power loom, manmade fabric, etc,), there is no comprehensive study indicating the level of stress in the post COVID-19 years. But factory owners and workers *The Hindu* spoke to nationwide, unanimously sought urgent governmental intervention.

Pressed flat: Employees like these women at a textiles exporting unit in Karur say wages have been flat for years. PERIASAMY M

Ghost towns

Electrical posts, factory gates, or tree trunks that used to sport 'tailors wanted'/'workers wanted' boards at Tiruppur, known as India's 't-shirt town', now stand bare. A sweeper at one of the garment factories in the city who took home ₹15,000 as bonus last year received less than a third (₹4,500) this year.

In the nearby weaving centre of Palladam, Velusamy, a power loom weaver, had paid ₹2.5 lakh as bonus to 16 workers and operated 30 looms in 2022. In the last three months, he has had to sell 20 looms, has one worker to man the remaining 10 looms and paid him ₹11,000 as bonus this year. "The workers took ₹7 lakh advance from me and are ready to work to repay the amount. But, I do not have orders to give them jobs," he says.

Sahajan, 32, from West Bengal, was working at a weaving unit at Pongalur. Since he did not receive bonus this year, he moved to another weaving unit. "I want to go back home. I get ₹550 a day for 12 hours of work now. I could get that working as security guard in Bengal and be with my family too," he says.

"There is almost 40% job loss in the garment export units in Tiruppur in the last six months. The (business) owners say they get only 60% work," observes P.R. Natarajan, general secretary of Tirupur District, All India Trade Union Congress.

Garment factories in Bengaluru are short of workers as many have switched to working at shopping malls, and metro rail stations. V.P. Rukmini, President of the Garment Workers' Union, says 90% of workers at garment factories in Karnataka are women. They receive minimum wages and no incentives. They prefer jobs that pay better and "where there is no harassment," she adds.

"Workers who lost their jobs have moved to other sectors," says an exporter in Delhi.

"At least 10 workers who were with me moved to jobs in Gujarat and Telangana," laments Pradeep Natarajan, who operates a textile mill in Coimbatore.

Affecting allied sectors

Such tales abound in textile clusters, especially in the southern States, with distress extending to allied activities. Selvaraj has been operating a mini truck for almost two decades, transporting textile goods at Palladam. His earnings have more than halved from ₹7,000 to ₹3,000 a week in the past year.

Arul (name changed), who rents out his godown to textile producers to store their products is unable to get any occupants. He recently disconnected electricity for his unit, unable to pay ₹37,000 as fixed montly charges.

"I took ₹1 crore loan to buy shuttle-less looms. I had pledged my relative's property. Last month, I moved the loan account to an NBFC pledging my father-in-law's property, because I cannot risk the property of my relative," says Easwaramoorthy.

Reasons for this widespread distress range from loss of orders for garment units, slump in rates for fabric weavers and spinners and an import glut of value added products. The Textiles Committee observes in a study, available on the Ministry of Textiles website, that decline in exports and rise in imports affected 2.14 lakh jobs between 2015 and 2020, in the pre-COVID-19 period.

The industry stares at multi-dimensional challenges: lack of data on the impact of the slowdown post COVID, including those on cottage and micro industries; vast differences in labour profiles and systems between organised and unorganised sectors; migration of workers to better paying jobs if prospects do not improve; and lower labour costs is other textile exporting nations impacting Indian exporters who compete on prices in the global market.

"The industry is so massive that it is difficult to do surveys," said an industry spokesperson, speaking on the condition of anonymity. "A large part of work is done at home and in rural areas and it is difficult to collect data from these places. The Ministry has a portal where migrant workers' details can be registered but it has to be linked to other schemes for better data capture. Moreover, as 90% of the production is in the unorganised sector, there cannot be a uniform approach to address labour conditions."

(This is the second of a four-part series on textile sector. Full report online at: https://bit.ly/TextileWorker)

A.P., Gujarat, T.N. named 'achievers' in Centre's logistics report

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

As many as 11 States and two Union Territories, including the coastal States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu; landlocked States Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh; North Eastern States Assam, Sikkim, Tripura and UTs Chandigarh, Delhi have been named as 'Achievers' in the LEADS [Logistics Ease Across Different States] 2023 report released by Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday.

Within the coastal group, Maharashtra, this year, has moved from 'Achievers' to 'Fast Movers' category while Odisha has moved from 'Achievers" to 'Aspirers' category.

In this report prepared by the Union Commerce & Industry Ministry, Kerala and Maharashtra have been named as 'Fast Movers' among the coastal States, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand among land-locked States; Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland among North Eastern States and Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Puducherry among UTs.

This report is based on a pan-India primary survey, conducted between May and July, covering more than 7,300 responses across 36 States/UTs.

Additionally, more than 750 stakeholder consultations significantly contributed to this comprehensive evaluation.

Kinetic Green eyes 12-15% market share in e-2,3 wheelers

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Kinetic Green Energy and Power Solutions Ltd. is aiming at securing a place among the top 5 firms with a market share of 12-15% in the electric two- and three-wheeler segment by FY29, said a top official.

"We entered the EV space during 2016-17 and are currently ranked among top 10 firms," Founder & CEO Sulajja Firodia Motwani said during an interaction. "We had drawn up aggressive growth plans. But, they were derailed by the pandemic."

Sulajja Firodia Motwani

As per the five-year plan (FY25-FY29), the EV manufacturer will set aside ₹500 crore over the next three-four years for manufacturing and product development. The firm also intends to raise $30-40 million between December and January 2024.

Stating that plans to set up a new plant in Andhra Pradesh have been put on hold, she said the second EV plant at Supa, near Ahmednagar, is ready to go on stream. In the first phase, the unit will produce one million EVs.

Asserting the firm was not burning cash, she said it had a pipeline of products lined up for 2024 such as e-Luna, e-auto (L5 passenger version), golf cart and a high-performance scooter in 2025.

"As the market for the ultra-premium range of golf carts in India is limited, it will be made and exported under the Tonino Lamborghini brand."

"In the last two years, we sold 50,000 EVs and posted a revenue of ₹500 crore. For FY25, we plan to sell one lakh units and garner a revenue of ₹1,000 crore. By FY29, we plan to sell one million units with ₹10,000 crore in revenue."

'Allowing cane juice for ethanol offers partial relief'

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The government's decision on Friday allowing sugar mills to use cane juice and B-heavy molasses to make ethanol subject to a cap of 17 lakh tonnes, will provide 'partial relief' to sugar mills, a mill owner said.

The rollback of a December 7 directive asking mills to not produce ethanol from sugarcane juice and syrup followed representations by the industry.

The impact of the order will be known after oil marketing companies issue allocation quantities, said a sugar mill owner, speaking on condition of anonymity.

महाराजा गंगासिंह विश्वविद्यालय, बीकानेर
निविदा सूचना 15507/07.12.2023 का शुद्धि पत्र
विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा रद्दी बेचान हेतु निविदा जारी की गयी हैं, जिनके यूबीएन **GSU2324GLOB00044** हैं। निविदा की सामान्य शर्त संख्या 02 को विलोपित करते हुए अंतिम दिनांक 22.12.2023 तक बढायी जाती है। शेष शर्ते यथावत है। निविदा से संबंधित विस्तृत जानकारी http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in भी पर उपलब्ध है।
राज.संवाद/सी/23/11658 कुलसचिव

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI
S.V.GOSAMRAKSHANASHALA, TIRUPATI
e-TENDER NOTICE
NIT No.TTD-30021(43)/7/SVGS/TPT/2023, Dt:16.12.2023
e-Tenders are invited for management of Cattle at SVIC, Palamaner on Contract Mode (activity based). Tender documents can be downloaded by login to **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** and select on "Current Tenders" and click on "more" and then select "Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams" at department field and "S.V.Gosamrakshana Shala Dairy Farm" in the circle / Division field and click on search button. **Dowload Start date 18.12.2023** and **last date for submission of tender is 26.12.2023.** For Further details contact Ph: 0877-2264570
ROC No. PR4/13961/Adv. No.301/ PRO/2023, Dated: 16.12.2023 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
KALISINDH THERMAL POWER PROJECT, JHALAWAR (RAJASTHAN)
E-TENDER NOTICE
Online tenders are invited for TN-557(RVU2324WLOB01886) Re-tubing/Refurbishment of HP heater-3 along with dismantling & Re-installation work, TN-1059 (RVU2324GLOB01741) Supply and Upgradation of GE Fanuc make 90-30 series PLC for Fly ash handling System & TN-1090 (RVU2324GLOB01781) Supply of Sulphuric Acid. Tender details are available on websites **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** (for e-tender), **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl** & **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**.
Raj.Samwad/C/23/11612 RVUN/PR-3949 Chief Engineer (KaTPP)

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : WRD/KWA-CE(SR)/TR/7902/2022_5_7 6/RC 1/1 Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)-2022-23-CWSS to 13 Panchayaths based on Malankara Reservoir - Package - VII - Moonilavu Panchayath - Providing transmission mains, Construction of service reservoirs, Providing Distribution networks and FHTCs and allied works. **EMD :** Rs. 5,00,000/-, **Tender Fee :** Rs. 16540+(2978) GST, **Last Date for Submitting Tender :** 05-01-2024, 03:00 pm, **Phone :** 0481 2562745. Website: **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-1844-2023-24 PH Circle Kottayam

RAJASTHAN STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY, JAIPUR
No. 347 Date: 12.12.2023
NIT No. 29/2023-24
INVITATION OF BIDS FOR TOLL COLLECTION
Bids for collection of user fee on **"Peelibanga-Lakhuwali Section of SH 118, Sardarshahar Loonkaransar Section of SH-06 A, Churu-Bhaleri Section of SH-69, Sanju-Tarnau Section of SH- 60, Roopangarh-Naraina Section of SH-100"** under RSHIP Tranche-1, Package-03/II are invited from interested bidders upto 11:30 AM on 08.01.2024.
Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**) of the state. The estimated value of Annual Remittance is Rs. 10.02 Crore in specified format from.
UBN No: PWD2324SLOB17223
Raj.Samwad/C/23/11635 Member (WC&O), RSHA, Jaipur

Karnataka Food & Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd.
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.16/I, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru-560 052.
Ph.: 080-22200660/22260932 **e-mail:** mdkfcsc123@yahoo.com
No.: KFCSC/Pro/MSP/02/2023-24 Date: 16.12.2023
NOTIFICATION
Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd., Bengaluru invites tender for appointment of Manufacturers for supply of **B Twill jute gunny bags** along with **Twine jute thread** under M.S.P Scheme of Government of Karnataka for the year 2023-24 under E-Procurement mode. The tender document and other details can be obtained from the E-Procurement website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and KFCSC website **https://kfcsc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Managing Director.

Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Development Project
(RFBDP) (funded by the French Development Agency)
Office of the Project Director Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Development Project, Aravalli Bhawan, Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur-302004, Rajasthan
Notice for Contractual Engagement
The Project Management Unit, RFBDP, Jaipur proposes to engage the services of suitable candidates for various positions on contract basis for providing support in implementation of Externally Aided Project as follows:

S. No.	Position	No. of Post	UBN No.
1	Project Manager (MIS)	01 (One)	FOR2324SLOB01237
2	Project Manager (ESMP)	01 (One)	FOR2324SLOB01238
3	Project Executive (Community Mobilization)	01 (One)	FOR2324SLOB01239
4	Project Executive (Communication)	01 (One)	FOR2324SLOB01240

The detailed advertisement, scope of work, eligibility/qualifications, and prescribed application format may be downloaded from **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** or **http://forest.rajasthan.gov.in** or **http://afd.dgmarket.com**.
Telephone - +91-141-2709101/5199654
Email: rfbdp.afd@gmail.com
Raj.Samwad/C/23/11631 Project Director

Tamil Nadu Maritime Board
(Government of Tamil Nadu)
Tender Notice-Lump sum Items Rate Contract
(Two Cover System)
No. 2349/CE/2022 **Dated 15.12.2023**
Tamil Nadu Maritime Board Invites Tender for1)Creation of Berthing Facilities (Floating Jetty) at Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, 2)Creation of Berthing Facilities (Floating Jetty) at Agni Theertham, Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu and 3)Creation of Berthing Facilities (Floating Jetty) at Villoondi Theertham, Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu. The Schedule of Important dates are as follows:

Tender Schedule available from	18.12.2023 @ 11:00 Hrs
Last date of submission	23.01.2024 @ 15:00 Hrs
Tender Opening Date	24.01.2024 @ 15:30Hrs

For further details and Tender Documents, please visit the website: https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
DIPR. 6690/Tender/2023 State Port Officer, Tamil Nadu Maritime Board

DEPARTMENT FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED AND SENIOR CITIZENS
Podium Block, V.V. Tower, Ground Floor, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Veedhi Road, Bangalore 560 001, Telephone : 080-22866066, 080-22866046 Email Address: dirdwdscka@gmail.com
No: DEDASC/2023-24/IND0013 Date : 15.12.2023
Tender Notification
(Through E-Procurement only)
Tender is invited by the Director, Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, under e-Procurement platform/e-portal in two parts (i.e., Technical bid and financial bid) from the original manufacturers or their authorized dealers for supply of 500 Nos. Battery Operated Wheel Chair for the year 2023-24 to the Department for Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens. The interested bidders may see further details and may login in **website :www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
The tender can be submitted on or **before 16-01-2024 till 4:00 p.m. Pre-bid meeting is on 22.12.2023 at 11:00 a.m.,** The technical bid will be opened on **18-01-2024 at 3:00 p.m.** and the financial bid will be opened on **22-01-2024 at 4:30 p.m.** Department reserves all rights to accept, reject, incorporate changes and retender without giving any reasons. The details can be obtained from the Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Podium Block, V.V. Tower, Dr.B.R.AmbedkarVeedhi, Bengaluru-560001, **Phone No: 080-22866066, 28860907.** For more info please see department **website: www.dwdsc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- For Director
Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/RO/2597/2023-24

RIL, Adani, L&T among 21 bids to make electrolyser

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Reliance Electrolyser Manufacturing, Adani New Industries, L&T Electrolysers and Bharat Heavy Electricals are among 21 companies that have bid for government's incentives to set up 3.4 GW of annual capacity for manufacturing electrolyser, a critical component required for hydrogen production.

The bids were in response to a tender by Solar Energy Corporation of India inviting players for setting up 1.5 GW capacity for electrolyser manufacturing. Bids for electrolyser manufacturers were invited on July 7 this year.

Off-road vehicle firm Polaris bullish on defence, retail

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Polaris Inc., an American off-road vehicle maker headquartered in Minnesota, said it remained quite bullish on India as it was seeing significant traction for retail and defence vehicles in the country.

Polaris Inc. designs, engineers, manufactures and markets Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs), including All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), snowmobiles, water bikes, motorcycles, commercial vehicles and ultra-light tactical vehicles across North America and also exports to Mexico, Australia, Germany, U.K., India, China Japan, Nepal and Kazakhstan.

Lalit Sharma

"India is a fast-growing and significant market for Polaris Inc.," MD Lalit Sharma told *The Hindu*. "We are offering the full of range of products in the country and has been experiencing overwhelming response as we are the only OEM and organised players present in these categories in India."

Mr. Sharma said individual customers spread across Kashmir, Delhi, Jaipur, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai and other locations accounted for 80% of the sales.

Karnataka (Mangalore, Coorg) and Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra (mostly Khandala and Lonavala) were the fast-growing markets for the company. Polaris has recently appointed Bornfree Motors as authorised dealer for Karnataka.

"The utility segment is very big for us. Our vehicles are also used on farms (farm houses), agriculture, construction, mining, surveillance, patrolling, tourism, offloading, for campus commute, farm commute, etc."

The vehicles are available in the range of 70 cc to 2000 cc and priced between ₹4 lakh and ₹18 lakh.

PROLIFIC

Deepti's nine-for, an India spinner's best figures in a women's Test

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Deepti Sharma's bowling figures of 9/39 against England in Navi Mumbai overtook Harmanpreet Kaur's 9/85 from the 2014 Mysuru Test against South Africa to become India's best figures by a spinner in a women's Test. Jhulan Goswami's 10/78 vs England in Taunton from 2006 remains India's best figures overall in the format.

REAL THREAT

Pooja bowled some brilliant wicket-taking balls: Knight

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Pooja Vastrakar dismissed opener Sophia Dunkley, captain Heather Knight and vice captain Nat Sciver-Brunt to trigger the English collapse. "Pooja got the ball to move laterally which is the real threat. Her seam off a good length ball was tricky. She bowled some brilliant wicket-taking balls," Knight said.

MISSING OUT

Shami ruled out of SA Tests, Chahar withdraws from ODIs

REUTERS

India will not have the services of Mohammed Shami in its quest to register a maiden Test series win in South Africa as the senior pacer was on Saturday ruled out of the two-match series after the medical team did not clear him, the BCCI announced. Deepak Chahar has also withdrawn from the ODI squad owing to a family emergency.

TOO STRONG

Paltan decimates Warriors in record-breaking clash

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Puneri Paltan bounced back in style, registering a 49-19 win over Bengal Warriors — the latter's first loss in PKL 10 — in Pune on Saturday. Paltan never let the opponent raiders settle down and the 24 tackle points it scored was a new record in a PKL contest. Dabang Delhi KC defeated Telugu Titans 51-40 in the other match.

Deepti's heroics propel India to memorable win over England

The hosts hardly break a sweat in registering a 347-run victory, the biggest win in terms of runs in women's Tests; Pooja combines with the off-spinner to complete the formalities on the third day of the one-off Test, the visitors' 100th

Super women: The Indian players are ecstatic after sealing their maiden Test win over England on home soil. EMMANUAL YOGINI

ENGLAND IN INDIA

Lavanya L
NAVI MUMBAI

England wanted to finish its 100th Test and the final assignment on the 22 yards with a victory to take some holiday cheer back home for the Christmas break.

However, instead of victory eggnog, England was left swallowing the bitter tonic of defeat after crumbling to a 347-run loss in the one-off Test against India at the D.Y. Patil Stadium here on Saturday.

England was handed a curveball when India decided to declare on its overnight score of 186 for six. With a hefty lead of 478, India set out to strike the English resistance down piece by piece.

The host bundled England out for 136 in three and half hours on day two, but needed just two hours and 10 minutes to wrap up its first Test victory against England on home soil and the biggest win ever in Women's Tests in terms of runs with a neat bow.

On a hot morning here, India was never made to sweat, sealing the Test before lunch on day three.

Natalie Sciver-Brunt, the only batter who looked to have any semblance of control, spoke about bettering footwork and focus and to dig deep and defend. Sophia Dunkley and Tammy Beaumont walked out determined to follow the blueprint.

Dunkley managed to keep Renuka Singh, who had her number throughout this series, at bay.

Nevertheless, Renuka got an opener, but it was Beaumont who succumbed to the seamer.

Dunkley also would fall eventually to Pooja Vastrakar who tempted her with a slightly wide delivery, forcing her to attempt a slice which went straight to Harleen Deol. Vastrakar sent shock-waves through the English dugout with a ripper to rock Sciver-Brunt's stumps off the very first ball she faced.

Struggling at 37 for three with a mammoth 442 runs still needed, the onus was on skipper Heather Knight and Danielle Wyatt.

However, neither could find a way to stick on at the crease. Once Knight fell to Vastrakar, with England at 68 for four, Deepti Sharma took over and cleaned house with some help from Rajeshwari Gayakwad. Deepti was adjudged Player-of-the-Match for her nine-wicket match-haul and knocks of 67 and 20.

Harmanpreet Kaur will now lead her side in another red ball fixture against Australia at the Wankhede Stadium from December 21-24.

SCOREBOARD

India — 1st innings: 428.
England — 1st innings: 136.
India — 2nd innings: 186 for six declared (overnight).
England — 2nd innings: Sophia Dunkley c sub (Harleen) b Pooja 15 *(24b, 2x4)*, Tammy Beaumont b Renuka 17 *(26b, 3x4)*, Heather Knight c Yastika b Pooja 21 *(20b, 4x4)*, Nat Sciver-Brunt b Pooja 0 *(1b)*, Danni Wyatt c Sneh b Deepti 12 *(11b, 2x4)*, Amy Jones c Shafali b Deepti 5 *(8b, 1x4)*, Sophie Ecclestone b Rajeshwari 10 *(11b, 2x4)*, Charlie Dean (not out) 20 *(33b, 3x4)*, Kate Cross b Deepti 16 *(22b, 2x4)*, Lauren Filer b Deepti 0 *(3b)*, Lauren Bell c Jemimah b Rajeshwari 8 *(6b, 2x4)*; Extras (b-5, lb-2): 7; Total (in 27.3 overs): 131.

Fall of wickets: 1-27 (Beaumont, 6.6 overs), 2-37 (Dunkley, 9.3), 3-37 (Sciver-Brunt, 9.4), 4-68 (Knight, 13.3), 5-68 (Wyatt, 14.1), 6-83 (Jones, 16.1), 7-83 (Ecclestone, 17.4), 8-108 (Cross, 24.1), 9-108 (Filer, 24.4).

India bowling: Renuka 6-1-30-1, Sneh 4-0-19-0, Pooja 4-1-23-3, Deepti 8-2-32-4, Rajeshwari 5.3-1-20-2.

Player-of-the-Match: Deepti Sharma.

India won by 347 runs in the one-off Test.

Harmanpreet sees fielding as the biggest positive; Knight puts the loss down to conditions

Through the gate: Cross has no clue about this special from Deepti. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Lavanya L
NAVI MUMBAI

England skipper Heather Knight pinned her side's massive 347-run loss to India in the one-off Test at the D.Y. Patil Stadium here on the unforgiving conditions in Navi Mumbai.

"This is the first time we've bowled in a Test match in these conditions. Maybe if we had a two or three-match series, we would be able to use these lessons and get better," the losing captain said after the team meekly folded to an Indian attack spitting fire in just two hours and 10 minutes.

"I think the spin was quite extreme. We learnt a lot from how India played in their first innings and the balance they maintained between attack and defence and trying to put pressure back on the bowlers.

"We tried to carry that into today but they bowled outstandingly and suited the conditions in how they executed their plans," she added.

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur was proud of how all three departments worked in tandem to produce a result in three days.

Bowlers backed us

"We came in to win this Test and would make decisions towards that end. We made the runs we wanted to make and the bowlers backed us in every department.

"The biggest positive for our team is our fielding. It is important to maintain energy over 90-odd overs and we did that.

"The fielding led the way and everything else fell into place," she said, after sealing a win in her first fixture as Test captain.

Team first

Harmanpreet missed on a maiden Test fifty in both innings, finishing with scores of 49 and 44 not out but she brushed it aside as trivial in the larger scheme of things.

"For me, the priority is to get the team to a solid position when I come out to bat. I have not been one to fixate on personal milestones.

"When we batted second, we were looking for a lead of 500, to get extra safety with regard to runs. More than us batting, it was important to give the bowlers those 40 minutes in the morning to make best use of the conditions," she added.

Chance for India's Gen-Next stars to showcase their mettle

INDIA IN SA

Press Trust of India
JOHANNESBURG

With a clutch of new generation stars lining up to make their presence felt, India's journey into its ODI future will make its first stop during the opening match against South Africa at the Wanderers here on Sunday.

Fresh line

For the Men in Blue, and to some extent the Proteas, this face-off signifies the arrival of a fresh line, building up ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025.

None will be in more focus than K.L. Rahul, who will lead India in the three-match series.

While the likes of Rahul, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Shreyas Iyer have showcased their skills, a few others will be eager to become part of the jostle for space in India's white-ball world.

Rinku Singh has impressed everyone with his impact performances in the T20Is so far this year, and the team management will be eager to see him graduate to the 50-over version. The left-hander could make his ODI debut.

There could be opportunities for Rajat Patidar, who has been churning out runs in domestic cricket for a few years now, and Sai Sudharsan for slots in the middle-order along with Tilak Varma.

The Indian think-tank will hope these young players tick a few boxes against a South African attack that has a depleted look in the absence of the rested Kagiso Rabada and injured Anrich Nortje.

Onus on bowlers

Meanwhile, the onus is squarely on the shoulders of bowlers such as Avesh Khan, Mukesh Kumar and Arshdeep Singh to marshal India's pace department.

The teams (from):

India:
K.L. Rahul (Capt. & wk), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sai Sudharsan, Tilak Varma, Rajat Patidar, Rinku Singh, Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson (wk), Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Mukesh Kumar, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep Singh, and Akash Deep.

South Africa:
Aiden Markram (Capt.), Ottniel Baartman, Nandre Burger, Tony de Zorzi, Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, Mihlali Mpongwana, David Miller, Wiaan Mulder, Andile Phehlukwayo, Tabraiz Shamsi, Rassie van der Dussen, Kyle Verreynne, and Lizaad Williams.

Match starts at 1.30 p.m. IST.

India-South Africa H2H in ODIs

	M	India	South Africa	NR
Overall	91	38	50	3
In South Africa	37	10	25	2

The schedule
Dec. 17: Johannesburg, 1.30 p.m. **Dec. 19:** Gqeberha, 4.30 p.m.
Dec. 21: Paarl, 4.30 p.m.

All times IST

In good touch: Rinku, who made a mark in the T20I series, would look to carry his form into the ODIs. AP

Luton-Bournemouth match suspended as Lockyer collapses

EURO LEAGUES

Associated Press
BOURNEMOUTH

The Premier League match between Bournemouth and Luton was suspended midway through the second half Saturday after Luton captain Tom Lockyer collapsed on the field.

Both teams left the field while Lockyer received medical treatment for around seven minutes at the Vitality Stadium. The 29-year-old Lockyer was eventually carried away on a stretcher. The score was 1-1 at the time.

Palace holds City

Michael Olise's 95th-minute equaliser from the penalty spot earned Crystal Palace a 2-2 draw at Manchester City.

The results:

Premier League: Bournemouth vs. Luton Town (*suspended*); Chelsea 2 (Palmer 54, Jackson 61) bt Sheffield United 0; Manchester City 2 (Grealish 24, Lewis 54) drew with Crystal Palace 2 (Mateta 76, Olise 90+5-pen); Newcastle 3 (Miley 57, Almirón 64, Burn 82) bt Fulham 0.

LaLiga: Celta Vigo 1 (Larsen 20) bt Granada 0; Athletic Club 2 (Guruzeta 51, Nico 64) bt Atlético Madrid 0.

Serie A: Lecce 2 (Piccoli 11, Ramadani 89) bt Frosinone 1 (Jorge 33-pen).

On Friday:

Serie A: Genoa 1 (Gudmundsson 48) drew with Juventus 1 (Chiesa 28-pen). **Premier League:** Nottingham Forest 0 lost to Tottenham Hotspur 2 (Richarlison 45+2, Kulusevski 65).

LaLiga: Osasuna 1 (Garcia 90+5) bt Rayo Vallecano 0.

INBRIEF

Arya records maiden win in MRF Formula 2000 category

Kolkata's Arya Singh, *in pic.*, finally got his maiden win in the MRF Formula 2000 category in the fourth and final round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship at the Madras International Circuit, in Chennai on Saturday.

The results (Provisional):
MRF Formula 2000: Race-one (eight laps): 1. Arya Singh (Kolkata, 15m 44.577s); 2. Jaden Rahman Pariat (Shillong, 15:44.783); 3. Chetan Korada (Chennai, 15:49.833).
MRF Formula 1600 (eight laps): 1. Viswas Vijayaraj (Nellore, 16:03.286); 2. Aman Nagdev (Noida, 16:03.550); 3. Veer Sheth (Mumbai, 16:04.975).

India claims women's bilateral cricket series for the blind

India clinched the Fedfina women's bilateral cricket series for the blind 4-1 over Nepal in Mumbai. Batting first in the dead rubber, Nepal scored 153 for six in the allotted 20 overs and India chased down the target losing two wickets. Simu Das was adjudged the player-of-the- match for her knock of 52.

Teenager Natasha Chethan emerges the champion

Karnataka teenager Natasha Chethan defeated Gujarat's Aanya Patel 143-107 in the final of the National sub-junior girls' billiards tournament in Chennai on Saturday. It was the 15-year-old Natasha's maiden title in this category.

The results:
Men's 15-Red snooker: Quarterfinals: Sourav Kothari (PSPB) bt Anurag Giri (MP) 5-3 (69-35, 8-96, 78-9, 50-82, 65-9, 19-61, 67-44, 65-6); Shoaib Khan (Del) bt Rayaan Razmi (Mah) 5-4 (73-52, 68-33, 17-72, 12-80, 78-29, 74-29, 27-64, 8-61, 68-13); Md. Hussain Khan (RSPB) bt Sunny Choudhary (Del) 5-3 (80-2, 79-42, 68-59, 55-79, 42-50, 8-82, 63-52, 65-23); Paras Gupta (UP) bt Shabaaz Khan (Mah) 5-1 (61-59, 55-67, 90-10, 74-42, 82-57, 107-19).
Sub-junior girls' billiards: Final: Natasha Chethan (Kar) bt Aanya Patel (Guj) 143-107; **Third place:** L Shruthi (TN) bt Sanvi Shah (MP) 129-114.

Aizawl and Gokulam Kerala play out a 1-1 draw

Aizawl FC and Gokulam Kerala FC played out a 1-1 draw in a crucial I-League football encounter in Aizawl on Saturday.

The results:
At Aizawl: Aizawl FC 1 (Lalbiakdika 31) drew with Gokulam Kerala 1 (Alejandro Sanchez Lopez 45+1).
At Srinagar: Real Kashmir 3 (Kamal Issah 5, Gnohere Krizo 55, Mohammad Inam 69) bt Shillong Lajong 1 (Karim Samb 16).

Probables for BCCI senior women's one-day Trophy

Karnataka named a 30-member probables list for the BCCI senior women's one-day Trophy.

The list:
Veda Krishnamurthy, Shreyanka R. Patil, Divya Gnanananda, Prathyoosha Kumar, C. Prathyusha, Vrinda Dinesh, Sahana S. Pawar, V. Chandu, Aditi Rajesh, Chandasi Krishnamurthy, Rameshwari Gayakwad, Pushpa Kiresur, Shishira Gowda, G.R. Prerana, Roshini Kiran, Krishika Reddy, Sanjana H. Batni, P. Saloni, P. Rohitha Chowdry, Anagha Murali, Niki Prasad, Mithila Vinod, B. Chethana, Ananya Hegde, Namitha D'Souza, C.S. Savi, Soumya Verma, N.G. Prakruthi, B.G. Tejashwini, M. Pooja Kumari.

LIVE TELECAST

Kolkata 25K Marathon: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30 a.m. onwards
Australia vs Pakistan: 1st Test, day 4, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.50 a.m.
U-19 Asia Cup: (final): Star Sports 3 & Hotstar, 11 a.m.
Zimbabwe vs Ireland: 3rd ODI, FanCode, 12.45 p.m.
South Africa vs India: 1st ODI, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 p.m.
TPL: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5 p.m. onwards
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Monday)
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 & 10 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. onwards
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 9 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)

Haryana squeezes a tight-win over Rajasthan to end its title-drought

Sumit's sprightly cameo and exploits with the ball, along with Harshal's spell, help the side eclipse Abhijeet's century and Kunal's 79 for a famous victory; Ankit (88) and Menaria (70) shine with the bat for the winner

HAZARE TROPHY

Dhruva Prasad
RAJKOT

In a pulsating Vijay Hazare Trophy final, Sumit Kumar's ubiquitous brilliance and Harshal Patel's flashes of inspiration scripted Haryana's 30-run win over Rajasthan and secured the state team's first title triumph in more than 32 years at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium here on Saturday.

With Abhijeet Tomar and Kunal Rathore soaking the pressure of a top-order collapse with a 121-run partnership for the fifth wicket, it was fitting that Sumit and Harshal combined to dismiss the former and help Haryana claw back.

After being taken to the cleaners in his first two spells, Harshal induced a miscued lofted shot over covers from Tomar only for Sumit to pull off a stunner at mid-off. A few overs later, Harshal got Rathore to slice one in the deep and usher in Rajasthan's long tail. Sumit's ability to move the ball both ways had Rajasthan reeling at 12 for three. After removing Ram Chouhan and Mahipal Lomror, Sumit got one to move in and trap Deepak Hooda leg-before, deflating the partisan crowd.

The wait is over: Haryana laid its hands on a domestic trophy finally. VIJAY SONEJI

Tomar staged a 68-run resistance for the fourth wicket with Karan Lamba before giving Haryana a mighty scare with Rathore. The duo's intent against spin could have been the difference between the sides but Harshal had other ideas.

Earlier, Ankit Kumar (88, 91b, 12x4. 1x6), and captain Ashok Menaria (70, 96b, 8x4) frustrated Rajasthan with a 124-run partnership for the third wicket after losing two wickets inside nine overs.

The duo rebuilt during a 17-over phase of relentless spin bowling that yielded 78 runs. Rajasthan's ploy of employing left-arm spinner Kukna Ajay Singh against right-hander Ankit and Hooda bringing himself into the attack to have a go at Menaria didn't pay off.

Aniket Choudhary eventually broke the alliance as the left-arm pacer rearranged Ankit's stumps off the first ball of his second spell.

With Ankit back in the hut, Menaria looked to crank through the gears but ended up flicking Choudhary's full delivery into the hands of deep square-leg.

Choudhary put down the marker for Arafat Khan and Khaleel Ahmed. Though Arafat had a disciplined start, nabbing Yuvraj Singh with a tight line and bounce, he strayed too wide and too full.

Nishant Sindhu and Rahul Tewatia struck sprightly cameos, while Sumit (28 off 16), who elicited chants of "Surya, Surya" from a bunch of kids with a perilous scoop for six over fine-leg in a 14-run last over, was only warming up.

The scores: Haryana 287/8 in 50 overs (Ankit Kumar 88, Ashok Menaria 70, Aniket Choudhary 4/49) bt Rajasthan 257 in 48 overs (Abhijeet Tomar 106, Kunal Rathore 79, Sumit Kumar 3/34, Harshal Patel 3/47).

Compound archery gold for Sheetal

PARA GAMES

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Archer Sheetal Devi expectedly finished on top of the podium, winning gold in compound archery at the inaugural Khelo India Para Games on Saturday with a score of 141 points, defeating Jyoti Baliyan in the final. Jyoti ended with 138 points while Sarita took bronze with 137.

In men's recurve, Paralympian Harvinder Singh took gold while Vivek Chikara got silver and Sahil bronze.

In shooting, Hangzhou Asian Games silver medallist Rudransh Khandelwal claimed gold in the men's 50m Pistol SH1 event with 223.4 while Singhraj took silver (216.4). Rajasthan's Shiv Raj Sankhala won bronze (194.7).

Other results:
Table Tennis: Men: Class-2: Lloyd Fernandes bt Avinash Gopinathan 3-0; **Class-1:** J.D. Madan bt Mayank Srivastava 3-0; **Class-3:** Shubham Wadhwa bt Madhu Ram 3-0.
Women: Class-5: Shitalben Darji bt Bharti Ben Padhariya 3-2; Class 1-3: Sonal Patel bt Vidya Kumari 3-0.

Winning start for Bengaluru FC under its new coach Zaragoza

ISL-10

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

A new manager bounce in football generally comes with the slate being wiped clean, players giving their all, confidence increasing and the results picking up.

Bengaluru FC enjoyed all of these on Saturday at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Gerard Zaragoza's first match in charge as it ran out a 1-0 victory over Jamshedpur FC for only its second win of the campaign. Javi Hernandez's penalty on the stroke of half-time proved the difference, as BFC swelled its points tally to 10 from 11 matches. But for a few nervy moments at the end when Jeremy Manzorro rattled the crossbar and also drew a fine save from Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, JFC didn't have much to show.

Decisive moment: Hernandez's penalty at the stroke of half-time proved the difference between BFC and JFC. K. MURALI KUMAR

At the outset, BFC kept possession for more minutes than they had all season, pieced together many a fine combination move and threatened the goal through a Sunil Chhetri free-kick and Suresh Wangjam drive.

The latter was, in fact, ubiquitous on the pitch, giving his side some much-needed energy. The pressure finally told when JFC's Elsinho inadvertently handled the ball inside the penalty area. Hernandez, not Chhetri, stepped up to take the spot-kick, and like his captain, the Spaniard made no mistake.

After the break, BFC kept up the pressure, and the visitors didn't help themselves by routinely misplacing passes. With just over 20 minutes left, Zaragoza withdrew both Chhetri and Hernandez, but the Catalan's wards managed to see off the game and collect the all-important three points.

The results:
At Bengaluru: Bengaluru FC 1 (Hernandez 44-pen) bt Jamshedpur FC 0.
At Mumbai: Mumbai City FC 0 drew with East Bengal FC 0.

Chandigarh men stretch Tamil Nadu

NATIONAL TT

Rakesh Rao
PANCHKULA

As expected, predictable results was the order of the opening day of the National table tennis championship with leading teams staying firmly on course of the pre-quarterfinals on Saturday.

Before the action commenced, host Haryana pointed to a discrepancy in the teams drawn in eight pools each in the men's and women's section, the Competition Manager Mr. N. Ganeshan realised the oversight and conducted a fresh draw in the morning.

In the draw made on Friday evening, the teams were ranked on the basis of the individual ranking points of the top three players from each team.

There were teams which expressed their displeasure on the late change but fairness stood restored.

The change did not impact the fortunes of any of the quarterfinalists from the last edition. Petroleum, Telangana, Delhi, Assam, Maharashtra, Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana in the men's section won two league matches each to ensure their places in the pre-quarterfinals.

The remaining eight qualifying teams in the men section and seven in the women will be identified on Sunday.

Last edition's finalist Tamil Nadu cruised to a 3-0 victory over Chhattisgarh.

Tamil Nadu men took a longer route to stop Chandigarh 3-1.

Bengaluru Mavericks enters semifinal

TPL

Sports Bureau
PUNE

Ramkumar Ramanathan, Arina Rodionova, and Vishnu Vardhan combined strong once again to power Bengaluru SG Mavericks to a 46-34 victory over Mumbai Leon Army in the Tennis Premier League on the charcoal grey courts of the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex on Saturday.

Ramkumar beat Ernests Gulbis 15-5. Mumbai did pull one back thanks to Karan Singh and Vijay Sundar Prashanth beating Ramkumar and Vishnu 11-9.

However, there was no stopping Bengaluru from topping the table and qualifying for the semifinals, with 219 points. Punjab Patriots made the semifinals with a 43-37 victory over Pune Jaguars.

Digvijay Pratap Singh and Arjun Kadhe tilted the balance in favour of Punjab. Delhi Binny's Brigade edged out two-time champion Hyderabad Strikers 41-39.

Delhi, with 201 points, was waiting for the result of the match between Bengal Wizards (164) and Gujarat Panthers (157) to finalise the last two semifinal slots.

The results: Bengaluru SG Mavericks bt Mumbai Leon Army 46-34 (Arina Rodionova bt Sowjanya Bavisetti 11-9; Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Ernests Gulbis 15-5; Arina & Vishnu Vardhan bt Sowjanya & Vijay Sundar Prashanth 11-9; Ramkumar & Vishnu lost to Karan Singh & Vijay 9-11).
Delhi Binny's Brigade bt Hyderabad Strikers 41-39 (Sahaja Yamalapalli lost to Ellen Perez 8-12; Dennis Novak lost to Niki Poonacha 8-12; Sahaja & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Ellen & Saketh Mynnei 14-6; Dennis & Jeevan bt Niki & Saketh 11-9).
Punjab Patriots bt Pune Jaguars 43-37 (Conny Perrin bt DianaMarcinkevica 14-6; Digvijay Pratap Singh lost to Lukas Rosol 7-13; Conny & Arjun Kadhe tied Diana & Rithvik 10-10; Digvijay & Arjun bt Lukas & Rithvik 12-8).
Bengal Wizards bt Gujarat Panthers 45-35 (Maria Timofeeva lost to Ekaterina Yashina 9-11; Sriram Balaji bt Sumit Nagal 11-9; Maria & Anirudh Chandrasekar bt Ekaterina & Mukund Sasikumar 13-7; Balaji & Anirudh bt Sumit & Mukund 12-8).

All three Indians draw their games in round two

CHESS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

The three Indians in the fray – D. Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi and P. Harikrishna – drew their games in the second round of the Chennai Grandmasters chess tournament here on Saturday.

While Gukesh and Arjun played out a comfortable draw, Harikrishna had a battle on his hands before holding Serbia's Alexandr Predke. Harikrishna joined Hungary's Sanan Sjugirov in the joint lead after the latter proved too strong for Ukraine's Pavel Eljanov.

Top-seeded Iranian Parham Maghsoodloo recovered from his first round loss to share honours with Levon Aronian of the USA.

The results (second round):
Arjun Erigaisi drew with D. Gukesh; P. Harikrishna drew with Alexandr Predke (Srb); Sanan Sjugirov (Hun) bt Pavel Eljanov (Ukr); Parham Maghsoodloo (Irn) drew with Levon Aronian (USA).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Shining stars: Swastic Union CC (2), winner of the KSCA (Group I) under-14 inter-club cricket tournament recently.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Karishma 'tricks as Kickstart wins again

Karishma Purushotham Shirvolkar scored a hat-trick as Kickstart FC registered a convincing 3-1 win over East Bengal FC in a 2023-24 Indian Women's League match at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Saturday. The victory was Kickstart's second straight success this campaign.

The result: Kickstart FC 3 (Karishma Purushotham Shirvolkar 41, 69 & 90) bt East Bengal FC 1 (Sulanjana Raul 86).

Chathura pilots Yelahanka NTBC to victory

Chathura's 25 points propelled Yelahanka New Town BC to a 53-50 victory over Koramangala SC in a boys' category match of the State invitational sub-junior (under-13) basketball championship here on Saturday. In the girls' section, Nationals BC Mysore pipped Appaiah BC 33-32.

Delhi PS (East) gets past Wildboar

Delhi Public School (East) overcame Team Wildboar 1-0 in the KSHA-BHA A-division hockey league here on Saturday. In another encounter, Rising Star HC-A blanked Bellary District Hockey Association 3-0.

FIDE role gives me a new perspective, says Anand

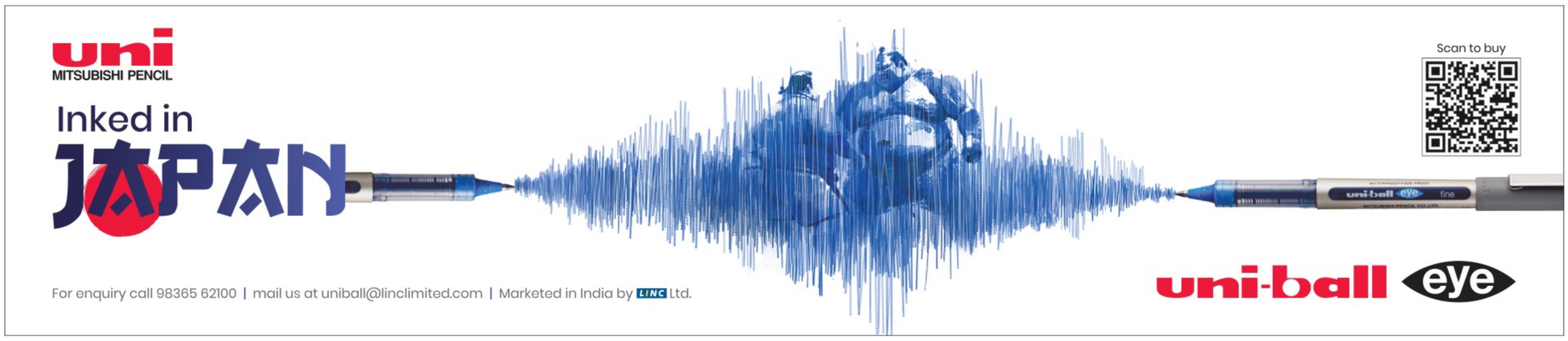
CHESS

Mayank Chaudhary
CHENNAI

Five-time world champion aViswanathan Anand marked his presence during the second round of the Chennai Grand Master 2023 tournament held at the Leela Palace here on Saturday. Anand commenced the second round by executing the ceremonial 'first move' in the match-up between local favourites D. Gukesh and Arjun Erigaisi.

Despite being relatively inactive as a player, Anand has embraced his new role as FIDE's Deputy President, expressing his enjoyment of the experience.

"It gives me a new perspective. You've spent your entire life competing in tournaments, but you've never seen the other side. The people who make it all happen, the arbiters, and a lot of the machinery," said Anand at an interaction.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Australia in command against Pakistan

The hosts reach 84 for two at stumps on day three, building their lead to 300 after bowling out the visitors for 271 in reply to 487

PAKISTAN IN AUS

Agence France-Presse
PERTH

Usman Khawaja and Steve Smith dug in to stretch Australia's lead and take the first Test away from Pakistan on Saturday, as veteran spinner Nathan Lyon moved within one wicket of the 500-mark. The hosts reached stumps on day three at 84 for two, building their lead to 300 after bowling out the visitor on the cusp of tea for 271 in reply to its first innings 487.

At close, Khawaja was on 34 and Smith 43 as Pakistan's hopes of a first Test win in Australia since 1995 faded.

Shaky start

The home side had a shaky start with first innings century-maker David Warner dismissed for a duck.

On the cusp: Lyon, at 499 Test wickets, was the pick of the bowlers for Australia. AFP

Marnus Labuschagne also surrendered cheaply, out for two with Shahzad again the tormentor, tempting a big edge taken by wicketkeeper Sarfaraz Ahmed.

It left Australia tottering at five for two. But Khawaja and Smith steadied the ship with an unbeaten 79-run partnership heading into day four.

The scores:

Australia 487 in 113.2 overs & 84/2 in 33 overs (Khawaja 34 batting, Smith 43 batting) vs. Pakistan 271 in 101.5 overs (Shafique 42, Imam 62, Lyon 3/66).

Spain bests India in bronze medal playoff

JR. HOCKEY WC

Press Trust of India
KUALA LUMPUR

India's hopes of redeeming some pride in the Junior Men's Hockey World Cup remained only a dream as it lost 1-3 to Spain in the bronze medal playoff here on Saturday.

Goals from Nicolas Alvarez (25th and 51st minutes) and Petchame Pau (40th) sealed the deal in Spain's favour as Sunil Jojo's 28th-minute penalty-corner strike was the only saving grace for the two-time junior World champion India, whose perennial frailty with penalty corner conversions came to the fore yet again.

This was India's second defeat to Spain in this edition, having lost 1-4 in the pool stages.

India had also finished fourth in the last edition in 2021 in Bhubaneswar.

Meanwhile, Germany will play France in the summit clash.

Touch Of Grey obliges in the Vaishnavi Bangalore 2000 Guineas

RACING

BENGALURU: S. Narredu-trained Touch Of Grey (Suraj Narredu up) won the Vaishnavi Bangalore 2000 Guineas, the chief event of the races held here on Saturday (Dec. 16). The winner is owned by Mr. Balam Mohla, Mr. Anil Saraf & late Mr. Apana Subaiya P.

Suraj confidently piloted the colt for a while and settled down to third position till the bend before manoeuvring his mount from outside in the home stretch.

Touch Of Grey responded well to the reminders, overtook the leader Chagall near 300m and managed to hold fast-finishing Knotty Charmer for a narrow win.

1. SEATTLE SLEW PLATE: RUN FOR THE SUN (G. Vivek) 1, Elfin Knight (Antony) 2, Golden Legend (S. Saqlain) 3 and Il Volo (Trevor) 4. 1-3/4, 2 and 9-1/4. 1m 26.36s. ₹19 (w), 15, 16 and 34 (p), SHP: 40, THP: 52, FP: 97, Q: 68, Trinella: 895, Exacta: 1,085. Favourite: Run For The Sun.
Owner: Mr. K. Kaliyaperumal. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

2. KRISHNA PLATE (DIV. II): STEP TO DESTINY (P. Siddaraju) 1, Domina (L.A. Rozario) 2, Loving Pearl (R. Pradeep) 3 and Spirit Dancer (Darshan) 4. 3-1/2, 1/2 and 1-1/4. 1m 14.54s. ₹18 (w), 14, 16 and 25 (p), SHP: 40, THP: 78, FP: 138, Q: 66, Trinella: 3,261, Exacta: 10,808. Favourite: Step To Destiny.
Owners: Mr. C.V. Prasad Rao & Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd. Trainer: V. Lokanath.

3. LINGANAMAKKI PLATE: ARDAKAN (Arvind K) 1, Breeze Bluster (G. Vivek) 2, Triumphant (A.S. Peter) 3 and Way Of Life (A. Ramu) 4. 1-1/4, 3 and 3. 1m 26.87s. Rs. 241 (w), 31, 10 and 12 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 42, FP: 654, Q: 193, Trinella: 1,704, Exacta: 14,645. Favourite: Breeze Bluster. Owner: Mr. Rajan Aggarwal. Trainer: Darius Byramji.

4. ADICHUNCHANAGIRI STAKES: ANAKIN (P. Siddaraju) 1, Solo Prince (Darshan) 2, Ultimate Striker (Vinod Shinde) 3 and Classic Charm (I. Chisty) 4. 3/4, 1/2 and Lnk. 1m 13.69s. Rs. 38 (w), 14, 19 and 19 (p), SHP: 41, THP: 62, FP: 186, Q: 101, Trinella: 1,317, Exacta: 10,074. Favourite: Air Display.
Owners: Mr. H.K. Lakshman Gowda, Mr. Rakesh Kumar & Mr. V. Lokanath. Trainer: V. Lokanath.

5. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY MEMORIAL TROPHY: SANTORINO (L.A. Rozario) 1, Yukan (Suraj) 2, Cyrenius (Antony) 3 and Kalamitsi (S. Saqlain) 4. Not run: Forseti. 3/4, 2 and 1-1/2. 1m 36.96s. Rs. 15 (w), 12 and 13 (p), SHP: 23, THP: 29, FP: 28, Q: 29, Trinella: 62, Exacta: 86. Favourite: Santorino.
Owners: Mr. Santhosh G, Mr. Francis Arun Kumar, Mr. Nirmal Singh & Mr. Mohd. Javeed Ghatala. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

6. VAISHNAVI BANGALORE 2000 GUINEAS: TOUCH OF GREY (Top Class-Zacara) Suraj 1, Knotty Charmer (Gusto-Stormy Princess) Antony 2, Chagall (Cougar Mountain-Heather) Trevor 3 and Marzgovel (Phoenix Tower-Lady In Lace) I. Chisty 4. 1/2, 1-1/2 and 7-1/4. 1m 37.00s. ₹16 (w), 10 and 14 (p), SHP: 22, THP: 24, FP: 26, Q: 14, Trinella: 36, Exacta: 83. Favourite: Touch Of Grey.
Owners: Mr. Balam Mohla, Mr. Anil Saraf & late Mr. Apana Subaiya P. Trainer: S. Narredu.

7. KRISHNA PLATE (DIV. I): SOUTHERN FORCE (I. Chisty) 1, War Trail (A. Ramu) 2, Ombudsman (Vivek) 3 and Oxytocin (R. Pradeep) 4. 2-1/4, Nose and 1/2. 1m 14.52s. Rs. 60 (w), 19, 130 and 45 (p), SHP: 501, THP: 74, FP: 3,340, Q: 1,817, Trinella: 61,431 (c/o), Exacta: 80,736 (c/o). Favourite: Indian Blues.
Owners: Dr. Arun Raghavan, Mr. Anjan Kumar Rangaraj & Mr. Pavan Rangaraj. Trainer: Faraz Arshad.

8. SUTLEJ PLATE: RUSSIAN ROMANCE (M. Naveen) 1, Double Vision (P. Siddaraju) 2, Raffles (Inayat) 3 and Sling Shot (Vivek) 4. Not run: Paradise Beckons. 1-3/4, 5-1/4 and Nose. 1m 40.31s. Rs. 38 (w), 16, 10 and 15 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 39, FP: 88, Q: 34, Trinella: 253, Exacta: 1,193. Favourite: Double Vision.
Owner: Mr. Nirash Bothara. Trainer: Neil Devaney.
Jackpot: Rs. 2,015 (37 tkts); Runner-up: 220 (145 tkts); Treble (i): 12,139 (one tkts); (ii): 353 (37 tkts).

In the limelight: C.N. Govindaraju, chairman & MD Vaishnavi Group, gives away the Vaishnavi Bangalore 2000 Guineas trophy to Anil Saraf, owner of Touch Of Grey, as Arvind Raghavan, left, BTC chairman, trainer S. Narredu, second from right, and jockey Suraj Narredu, right, look on. K. MURALI KUMAR

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